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AMMAN, 9 — 15 MAY, 1996, VOLUME 6, NUMBER 52, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

King describes European visit as a great success Hussein-Mubarak summit launches new phase of coopération

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star
FOLLOWING HIS European tour of Britain, France, and Germany, His Majesty King Hussein visited Cairo on Wednesday and met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before coming back to Amman. Meanwhile, a top-level joint meeting between Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Al Jazouari and Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarti took place at the Prime Ministry, Wednesday.

threats of Israel's continued policies and its lack of commitment to the Palestinians. Sources at the Prime Ministry stressed that the bilateral summit between King Hussein and President Mubarak focused on developing relations and support the Palestinians in their forth coming negotiations on the final stage of the Palestinian-Israeli track that started in Taba last week, and in which the future of Jerusalem, the settlements, refugees, borders, and water resources will be decided. Sources added that Egyptian-Jordanian agreement was reached during King Hussein's visit to Cairo.



between the Palestinians and the Israelis, as both leaders agreed that the Palestinian issue is the cause of the conflict in the region. They stressed that

the lack of a satisfactory solutions to the most sensitive questions will have negative impact on all other tracks, including those between Egypt and Jordan with Israel.

Majesty pointed out that violence only develops in the environment of poverty and unemployment. King Hussein stressed the significant role of Europe in the support for both the peace process and development projects in the region. He also stressed the importance of restoring Lebanese sovereignty, and preserving its territorial integrity. As for Iraq, His Majesty reiterated the need to lift the sanctions and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity and maintenance of its sovereignty, and the return of Iraq to play its role in the Arab and international arenas.

King Hussein was promised by the leaders of those countries he visited that the European role in the Middle East will be strengthened, especially regarding ensuring security and stability, and in exerting efforts to realize a just, comprehensive and durable peace. They promised a more effective European role in regional economic development.

His Majesty, extended invitations to Britain's Prime Minister John Major, France's President Jacques Chirac, and Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl to visit Jordan.

President Chirac promised that his visit to Jordan would take place in September.

Well-informed sources pointed out that a German economic delegation will soon come to Jordan to promote

Les médias aspirent à plus de liberté
A LIRE p. 12 dans LE JOURDAIN

UN report incriminates Israel in Qana bombing



Arab-Americans demonstrated during the Israeli onslaught on Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)—both Israel and the United States have expressed concern that a United Nations report on the Israeli shelling of a UN compound in south Lebanon last month could compromise efforts to get a solid ceasefire in place—and perhaps even negatively affect the entire Middle East peace process. The report which was released by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The secretary-general had sent his top military advisor to the region to investigate the Israeli shelling on 18 April of a UN base crowded with refugees, over 100 Lebanese were killed in the incident, even before the investigation, a spokeswoman for Mr Boutros-Ghali said there could be no excuse for what the Israelis did. Israel maintains it was a tragic accident and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres even blamed the UN for not informing Israel of the existence of refugees at the base.

Israel and the United States pressured Mr Boutros-Ghali to

postpone release of the report in an attempt to water down its conclusions. The secretary-general said he is obliged to issue the report because of the UN's responsibility toward its peacekeepers.

In a telephone call to Mr Boutros-Ghali's military adviser, Dutch Maj. Gen. Frank van Kappen conducted the investigation. Israel asked last week for time to address the question of intent before he releases his report.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, said last Monday that the videotape, shot by a UN peacekeeper with his personal camera, proved Israel knew what it was doing.

The tape "shows the shelling is not one or two rounds that overshoot, as we've been told for the past two weeks," Goksel said, "but that it was a targeted shelling." Reports indicate the tape shows a series of puffs of smoke rising from the base and the drone flying overhead. Israel originally said it had fired only one or two rounds, but last Sunday, Israeli deputy chief of staff Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai said as many as five rounds might have hit the base.

Diplomatic sources said the report concludes "that something went seriously wrong at a point down the (Israeli) chain of command." The Israeli army are being asked to check their records to see whether high-level officials who knew civilians were in the camp had passed the information to lower-level officials who ordered the barrage.

Jordan, Egypt agree to bolster bilateral ties

By Hamdan Al Haj
Special to the star
IN THE final communique and joint press conference of the Jordan-Egypt Joint Higher Committee which was headed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries, both sides emphasized that regional peace should be just and comprehensive. They expressed their support to the peace process and the need to realize progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track, as well as their support of the efforts aimed at the resumption of the negotiations on the Syria-Israeli and Lebanon-Israeli tracks.

ated their support for the Lebanese ceasefire agreement. They called upon the international community to compensate Lebanon for the damage inflicted upon its infrastructure, and for the Lebanese people's losses in lives and properties. In its two-day meeting in Amman, the Higher Committee underlined the importance of forging efforts to denounce and combat all forms of terrorism, and called for a Middle East free from all forms of weapons of mass destruction, so that equal and balanced security can be achieved.

The two sides re-emphasized the impor-

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Continued on page2

After the PNC decision Observers say Palestinians remain weakest link in region

By a Star Staff Writer
THE BEGINNING of the final stage of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on 5 May put the region and the peace camp before a new challenge. The Palestinians believe they have fulfilled their obligations to the Israelis, in particular the last month's decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to revoke clauses from its National Charter. While the historic decision was welcomed by Israel, not all Palestinians were happy with it. Palestinian and Arab intellectuals who are currently working to mobilize an organization to defend Palestinian rights have expressed doubt that the peace agreements will secure Palestinian rights.

These observers believe the Palestinians are the weakest link in the current peace process, because of US backing of Israel and the impotence of the Arab world to play an effective

role in the on-going negotiations.

Supporters of this trend considered the latest debate on the charter as an important link in the chain of events that form the two-year-old Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

"There is a Palestinian obligation since Oslo to amend clauses in the charter that contradict with the peace agreement with Israel," said Ghazi Sa'di, director of Al Jaleel Center for Publication and Palestinian Research and Study and a member of PNC. "But Israel continues to violate the peace agreements. The Palestinians can stop their adherence to the peace treaty in response to Israeli violations, but they chose to prove to the world that they are peace seekers."

Palestinian source denied that there are direct clauses in the Palestinian National Charter calling for the destruction of Israel, but there are articles

talking about the historical rights of the Arab Palestinian people in Palestine. The source said the charter calls for the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state in Arab Palestine, where followers of the three monotheistic religions can live peacefully and equally. The charter talks about the armed struggle against Zionism, but such article is based on the international agreements which legalized such struggle for occupied nations.

Some Palestinian intellectuals consider the abrogation of these articles as "unwise" by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"The charter is a document of the Palestinian historical rights and the geographical unity of Palestine. Neither the appointed PNC nor any one has the right to play with it," said Nafe' Al Hassan, an expert in international law con-

cerning refugees and human rights and the director of the PLO's Planning Department. "It was an unjust deal. The PNC revoked the charter but the Israelis offered nothing in return. They still have their racist and expansion policies. They postponed their withdrawal from Hebron, and they continue their blockade of Palestinian territories."

In 1974, the United Nations accepted the PLO as an observer member after adopting an interim program calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state in lands that were occupied in the 1967 war. The Independent Declaration and the Political Communiqué of the 19th session of the PNC in 1988, recognized two states for two peoples on Palestine. "The decision was to amend some clauses in the charter but not to revoke it," Al Sa'di said.

Last week the Labor Party of

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres dropped its formal opposition to the establishment of the Palestinian state, but stopped short of recognizing such a state. The party which has a very narrow majority of 61 out of 120 Knesset members, is facing a die-hard election battle later this month against the radical Likud Party.

In the final status negotiations, the Palestinians will be fighting along three fronts: their call for a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, the right of return or compensation to the Palestinians in the diaspora, and the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces and settlers from the land that was occupied in the war of 1967. These three topics will form the core of these negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis.

"These are the Palestinian demands and they are accepted by our leadership," Al Sa'di said. According to him, some members in the Labor Party support calls for a Palestinian state with a flag and a seat in the United Nations. Regarding the West Bank they believe there should be a tripartite rule, Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli. Others even contemplate a confederation or a

Confederation or a

Continued on page2

Story manga hits society by storm A stable diet for the Japanese but an export to the world

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

TOKYO—It was 6 pm, the time people leave work, the metro in Hiyaya station in Tokyo, a city of 12 million. As people take their seats, the strange aura of quietness is disturbed as the train gears up speed. Everyone starts rummaging their bags to be entertained—a book, a Walkman, newspapers but mostly comics. Looking around in the hush of the train, comics are seen everywhere: Men, women, boys and girls, old and young, despite the grey suits, everybody is reading a comic.

What makes an adult read a comic book, it might be asked? "One factor is the feeling of alienation created by industrialization," said Mr Kenji Honda,

an expert on the booming comic industry in Japan, and general manager of Futaba-sha Publishing Co.

Manga, *zasshi* is the Japanese name of comic magazines and it has another meaning that of funny stories as it was targeting kids. The manga is one of the significant features of a mass culture in present-day Japan.

Japanese comics go back to the end of the 19th century when newspapers began carrying first one panel and later multi-panel cartoons depicting politics, customs and life in a satirical and humorous manner. Comics became more popular in the 1920s and 1930s.

"When we refer to comics we mean the story comics rather than cartoons, whose history in Japan started in 1950 after the World War

II, as newspapers and magazines began to carry four-strip cartoons," Honda added. "The 1960s saw the appearance of many children's comic magazines carrying serialized stories."

The comic story became more popular replacing the "nonsense comics" (cartoons) which are still wanted.

The most popular cartoon was *Tetsuwan Atomu* created by the late cartoonist and writer Tezuka Osamu who is now considered as the man behind the story manga. *Tetsuwan* became the first cartoon to be shown on television.

Initially, manga was created for boys. But starting from 1965, the monthly manga became weekly magazines. As it developed, more and more adults began to read the comic books.

"As those young boys grew up they wanted



to continue reading more Manga so there was a need to publish these stories but this time targeting the older generation," Mr Honda said. Mangas are a staple diet of the Japanese. They are read by literally everybody and everywhere in Japan. In restaurants, on breaks, buses and homes, all are reading. People in

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JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, paid a visit to Rweish and its surrounding areas. Accompanied by the Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti, the Prince visited a production station in the Al Reisha gas field. After that, the Prince visited the Al Karamah Border Directorate. He inspected services provided by the directorate to the people of the area. Later on, Prince Hassan visited Al Ruqban (Badia) Center.

Israelis shot at in Kerak

Israeli tourists have been shot at in Kerak recently, it was reported by the Israeli daily *Yedioth Ahnoret*. A number of tourists who had been visiting the Kerak Castles said a number of shots were fired in their direction. One French woman, who was with a group of tourists at the time, was injured because of a shot wound. The authorities are still carrying out investigation, but it is believed that police have rounded up 40 people who they suspect for planning to carry out further attacks on tourists.

the occasion of "Israeli Independence" turned out to be a flop. Out of 700 invitations made by the Israeli ambassador in Amman Mr Shimon Shamir, only a handful turned up. None of the ministers attended the party, nor any of the general secretary of political parties, except for one, attended the reception. Never mind, this is not the first snub and I am sure, it won't be the last.

Business Council to be set up

A regional businessmen council is to be set up shortly. According to *Al-Bilad*, businessmen from Israel, Jordan, and the self-rule areas are to

meet this week in Israel to draw up a charter for the council, which was agreed upon by the Amman Economic Summit that was held last October. It is generally agreed that the headquarters will be in Amman, but each country that is participating in the council will have a regional office. Each country will have two members on the council.

Conference center: Pride of Jordan

It seems that the Government is dead set on building a center for conferences and exhibitions at Maraj Al Hamam. The JD 71 million center is just one of the projects that the government is embarking on with the cooperation of the private sector. The high cost of the center is not deterring the government despite criticism that the money could be used more effectively elsewhere. But the government must be banking on better days.

Al Majd to be taken to court—again!

Al Majd weekly is to be taken to court for the umpteenth time. Well done Mr Rimawi, you probably have earned yourself a place in the Guinness Book of Records! Seriously however, *Al Majd* and its editor are being summoned to the High Court, this time for publishing an article about the director of the Free Zones Corp., Mr Faleh Al Qudah who recently retired. We don't know the exact details but Mr Qudah is said to be deeply offended by the article in the newspaper. Mean-

while, the Court of First Instance in Amman acquitted Mr Rimawi from the accusation of insulting the leader of an Arab country.

On another level, and nothing to do with the law, the *Al Mashreq* weekly has folded for financial reasons. Mr Mohammad Masharqa, a deeply committed journalist, said that the stop is only temporary and that *Al Mashreq* will soon be rolling again. Mr Masharqa is "pondering" on his next step. He says that he will be soon coming up with a strategy to revitalize his paper. He told *Al Majd* that he wants a paper that is more "serious" and "credible." Funny, we thought it was. Serious, I mean.

Sri Lankan Honorary Council to be taken to court

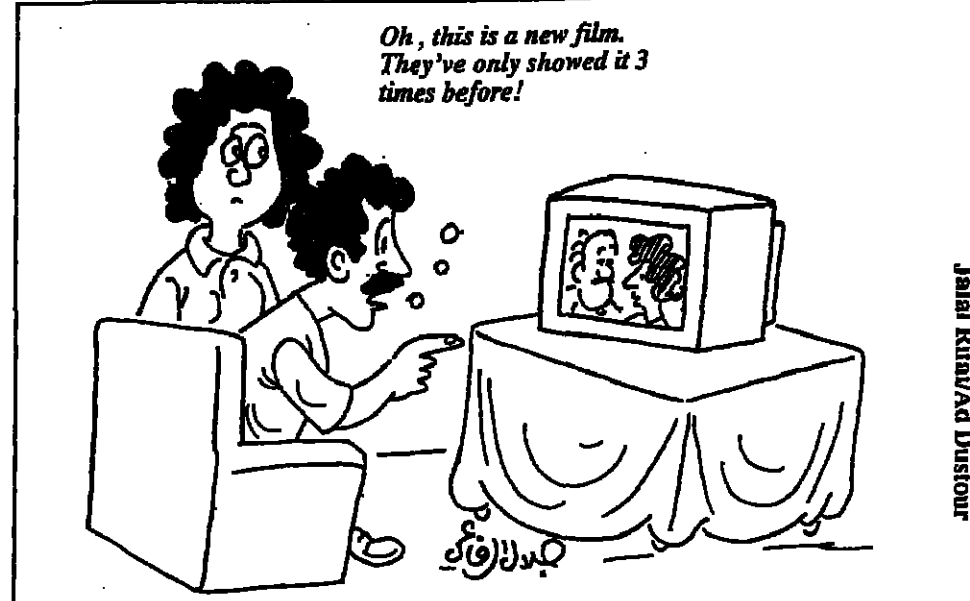
The Minister of Information Dr Marwan Al Muasher told the press in his Monday meeting that the Honorary Council of Sri Lanka, Mr Tawfiq Abu Khajeh will be taken to court for allegedly taking part in a ring to sell Sri Lankan babies to European couples.

JDA election promises to be sedate

Elections for the Jordan's Dental Association (JDA) are set for Friday, 10 May. The elections are for the post of president and for the 16-member council of the association. There are 2590 who are registered in the association, but only about 800 who have paid their dues. We shall have to wait and see how many take part in the elections at the Professional Association Complex, this Friday. But all in all, it seems that this is going to be a sedate election. The former president of the JDA, Dr Saad Abu Metzger, is running for re-elections under one bloc that has one member of the West Bank. Last year only one bloc ran for the JDA elections. Contrary to other associations, Islamists, leftists and nationalists ran as one team.

Everybody is now on the internet

They call it the age of the internet. In Jordan, the fashion today is to surf the web. Even government departments are eager to get connected. While one would think that the government would be cryptic about passing information, but no, they are actually encouraging it. Nobody can now log to local electronic bulletin boards and ask the government any thing. Minister of Information, Dr Marwan Al Muasher, who



Jahad Rifaat/Ad Dastour

Angelli's remarks signals a rift between Europe and US over region

The comments of the Italian Foreign Minister, Susanna Agnelli, who was in Amman earlier this week were very pleasing to the ears of most Jordanians. Heading the European Union's Troika, Ms Agnelli said Europe is poised to play a more conciliatory role in the region. "Due to our closeness as Mediterraneans, we can understand many things about this region, better than the Americans."

In what appeared to be a deep rift between the Europeans and the US over the politics of the region, the Italian foreign minister said that the "Israelis and the Americans are very close, but Europe can help achieve a more balanced attitude in the world towards the region," she added.

She didn't mince words about the latest ceasefire reached between Hizbollah and Israel, describing it as an "American peace" and was "a good one, provided they [Americans] manage to make it a durable peace. She added that, "until now it is a truce...and we think that it should be a real peace."

She pointed out that there is a "feeling of



justice" in the region. "On the part of the US, there has been too much bending towards Israel and not enough towards Lebanon."

The EU is to grant Jordan \$130 million in aid. Ms Agnelli and the accompanying delegation were received by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabariti and top Jordanian officials.

After the PNC decision

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federation between Jordan and the Palestinians after the Palestinians build their state in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Such a confederation should first survive a plebiscite by Jordanians and the Palestinians," Al Sa'di said.

"The Labor Party will not give the Palestinians a complete state on the West Bank and Gaza, they will find some other formulas that guarantee the Israeli security," Al Hassan said. "If the Israelis continue to ignore Palestinian rights, it is better for the Palestinians to wait sometime than to surrender their rights."

Mr Al Hassan bets on changes in the regional and international levels hoping to end America's unilateral role in the region.

But Mr Al Sa'di does not believe such a change will happen. "Such a change is not guaranteed, at least not in the near future. The situation in the Palestinian territories cannot wait any longer. Israel is confiscating our lands and building new settlements."

Jordan, Egypt agree to bolster bilateral ties

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tance of Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, while expressing deep concern about the Iraqi people's suffering. The two sides called for the purification of Arab climates and the restoration and strengthening of Arab solidarity.

The Jordanian and Egyptian sides signed yesterday four agreements:

■ To create a free-trade zone between the two countries, to liberalize trade, gradual customs exemptions, and removal of custom barriers within 10 years. This agreement constitutes an advanced step in inter-Arab economic relations.

■ To promote and protect investments, to enable investors from both countries to develop joint projects.

■ To do away with customs dualism between the two countries.

■ An executive program of cooperation in tourism.

The joint committee also reviewed the two countries' bilateral cooperation in the fields of: planning, industry, standards, meteorology, energy, electricity and oil, the grid project between the two countries, research, agriculture, transport and communications.

The committee decided that the study on making Egypt a medium circuit of telegraphic services among the Arab states must be finalized. It also agreed that an agreement be signed by the administrations of postal services in the two countries to manage and develop electronic postal services.

The committee also reviewed the possible cooperation in the fields of health, pharmaceuticals, education, higher education, information, culture, workforce, and consular affairs.

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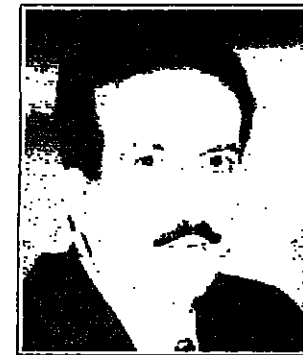
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Amman on trams

Jordan could very well be embarking on a new era. Well, at least in transport services. By the beginning of next year work will start on an extensive tram service between Zerga, going through to Amman's Al Hashimiyah Square, passing to Al Abdali, and on to Jordan University and Sweileh. That could make life for many commuters a lot easier who have to battle everyday with worn out commuter bus services between Zerga and Amman. The project, which will cost JD 119 million, is to be carried out in cooperation with the Austrian Railways. The Minister of Transport, Mr Nasser Al Lawzi said that the tram system will transport 50,000 passengers daily and will contribute to environmental protection through pollution control since in cities trams will run on electricity only. However in the countryside, that is between Amman and Zerga, the trams will run on diesel. However, the minister pointed out that these are options that are still under study.



Al Lawzi

REDWG establishes monitoring committee in Amman

The Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) established its Monitoring Committee Secretariat in Amman. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning, Dr Nabil Ammari opened the office last week. REDWG was established as part of the on-going peace process to define the programs and joint projects in the Middle East. Its members are Egypt, Jordan, PNA, and Israel. These projects will be carried out in cooperation with the European Union.

Hussein-Mubarak summit

Continued from page 1

joint projects, and follow up on the agreements reached during the Amman Economic Summit.

These sources added that King Hussein was also promised by the leaders that the

debts which Jordan owes to these countries will be reviewed and reduced so that Jordan's financial burdens and economic difficulties will be mitigated.

The Star was informed that King Hussein's talks with President Mubarak touched upon

the forthcoming economic summit in Cairo in November 1996, which complements the AES, and on the adoption of presenting joint Jordanian-Egyptian projects that have been agreed upon during the recent meeting of the joint Higher Committee in Amman.

Debate on JPA presidency ends in a draw

LAST WEEK'S seminar titled "Media: Reality and Prospects", organized by the Jordanian Islamic Center for Information, invited the prospective five candidates for the presidency of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to a debate at the Royal Cultural Center.

The five candidates are Seif Al Sherif, Faisal Al Shbouh, Ahmad Al Husban, Basim Sakijha and Khalid Mahadeen who was absent from the debate.

The candidates all emphasized the central issues that

debates which Jordan owes to these countries will be reviewed and reduced so that Jordan's financial burdens and economic difficulties will be mitigated.

The candidates all emphasized the central issues that

it to the courts. Al Sherif, the vice president of the JPA, said the council has admitted a 100 new members during the last one and a half years.

Al Shbouh said that the majority of Jordanian journalists receive low income. He wants to abolish the quota given to the owners of newspapers on the council of the association.

Sakijha, the editor of the now defunct *Akher Khubar*, said journalists die early because they do not enjoy financial security. He added that the significant role that the media used to play in the past is diminishing.

Al Husban reemphasized the importance of the implementation of the one percent. He added the association is in need of professional journalists and a president who must not contradict himself and be able to activate the laws of the association. He said that the JPA must provide an improved health security system for its members.

World ladies meet in Amman to support rural women

FIRST LADIES and special envoys from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas are taking part in the 1996 meeting of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (ISC). This is hosted by ISC President, Her Majesty Queen Noor and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), in Amman between 14-16 May.

Participants include representatives from the United Nations, World Bank, World Food Program and NGOs for women from Jordan, Switzerland, Ecuador, India, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Senegal. The ISC meeting focusing on food security, micro-credit for rural women and the enhancement of the quality of life of women and their families, will assess the impact of the Beijing Conference on the needs and rights of rural women and formulate a plan of action. The three-day program will also include a trip to NHF's Wadi Seer Community Development Project at Iraq Al Amir, which was initiated in 1994 to invigo-

rate socio-economic development in the five villages of the area and generate employment particularly for poor women.

The ISC, which was founded in 1992, is an advocacy group comprising 15 wives of heads of states and governments representing the world's five regions. It promotes the implementation of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women through the mobilization of public opinion for rural women around the world.

The King Baudouin Foundation in Belgium, whose Honorary President is Queen Fabiola is the patron of the ISC, and developed the ISC DIMITRA Rural Women and Development Project, which comprised three distinct components: the promotion of rural women in Third World countries, the ISC Secretariat and the preparation of a rural women and development Guidebook. The Secretariat, which is currently based in Amman, focuses on collecting data, fund-raising and compiling a database on rural women throughout the world.

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After the PNC decision

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 eration between the PNC and the Palestinian leadership. The PNC has decided to continue to support the PLO and the Palestinian Authority. The PNC has also decided to support the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in their efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The PNC has also decided to support the PLO and the Palestinian Authority in their efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Jordan, Egypt agree to bolster bilateral ties

Continued from page 1
 Jordan and Egypt have agreed to strengthen their bilateral ties. The two countries have signed a joint declaration of intent to cooperate in various fields, including economic, cultural, and political. The declaration also calls for the two countries to work together to promote peace and stability in the Middle East. The declaration was signed in Amman, Jordan, on May 1, 1996.

People & Politics

Questions on people's minds

Following the recent developments in the region there is a need to clarify if not redefine Jordan's foreign policy imperatives. We say this as we recall Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti's abortive attempt to intervene with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres on behalf of Lebanon during Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation against Hizbollah. And we say this as we sense more confusion about Jordan's true stand from President Saddam Hussein. And we say it again while looking at the state of our relations with Syria, Egypt and the PNA. We are tempted to keep saying it as we ponder about the future of our relations with the United States, Europe and the Gulf states. What role are we looking for in a region that has yet to settle and take its final shape? The dust is not clearing up, and yet we seem to have entrenched ourselves too far and too deep into areas where we are finding ourselves alone and lonely.



Kabariti's

And as we keep repeating ourselves we look for ancient traces of optimism as Jordan and Egypt hold this week in Amman a new round of talks at prime ministerial levels to discuss joint economic development. And we ask ourselves: Haven't we seen this before? In 1994, '90, '88, '85...Haven't we heard the same bold statements many times before? Consultations, coordinations, joint work, regional development, joint strategies, reiterating calls for a just and comprehensive peace, and yes, supporting the Palestinians and their rights...etc. etc. etc. Like in previous times, we have to wait and see for results to materialize.

And the same applies to our relations with the Palestinian authority. Gauging the health of this crucial rapport is becoming a national guessing game. Who is to say if the two sides really mean what they say, and do what they promise to do? For the citizens of this country the nature of this relationship is becoming more problematic every day. And the more politicians talk about inevitable future unity between the two entities, the more distant this goal appears and the more alienated those politicians become from reality.

And what about Iraq? Are we still vying for a central role in changing its future? Or are we really not interested in getting involved in its thorny internal politics? What are our true ambitions in Iraq? Or are we just making scores here and there? So far we do not have a clue about our foreign policy regarding Iraq. So do we just sit back and believe everything that the sensational weeklies talk about: Iraqi subversive elements infiltrate into Jordan; tens of Jordanians killed in Iraq and are stored in morgues; operation Eager Tiger is actually aimed at toppling Saddam...

And what about our new found alliance with the Americans. How do people feel about it at home? Can we really depend on the Americans to alleviate our economic woes? Is America really interested in our political and economic well-being, or democracy and pluralism with all its unique features? And last but not least: what about the warm peace we thought we might have with Israel? Do we still think it is workable, or even if it is a good idea? Can we really coin an equitable relationship with Israel? Can Israel be trusted? And what do we hope to achieve from it all?

We ask these questions because we hear our citizens asking them too. True politicians sometimes pretend not to hear, but the writing is on the wall; do they see it?

Dr Muasher: Calling a spade a spade

Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher attempted

to simplify the economic issues for the local press in his weekly Monday meeting this week. First of all he told reporters that there was no economic crisis in Jordan, but he followed that statement with another; that he would not like to deceive anyone by saying that there were no economic problems. And then he said that there are economic challenges facing the country, but they do not amount to a crisis. And then he added that this does not mean that the economic situation will improve noticeably within a short period of time, one, two or even three months. He estimated that the economy should begin to improve in one or two years—once the effect of foreign investments is felt. But then he said that the European partnership agreement should offer opportunities to Jordanian goods once the agreement is put to effect in two months' time. Economic improvement, the minister said, will come from investments in the tourism and the water sectors. Somehow we don't think Dr Muasher's statements have succeeded in assuring citizens that there is no economic crisis in Jordan, or have they?



Dr Muasher

Press debate: Not fit for publishing

The seminar on Jordanian media, coinciding with the universal Press Freedom Day, this week was an occasion for all those concerned to pontificate. Well, until the last day when the candidates for the Press Association presidency were invited to participate in a public debate. Reality bites, but the level of the debate exposed the true ailments of the press body today. Candidates were more interested in personal feuds than in dealing with the core issues besetting the journalistic profession. But it would be fair to say that members of the association hurling questions at the candidates had helped pull the level of discussion to unbelievable lows. With such a mood taking over the association and its members one wonders if the association will ever rise to the challenges facing the profession and those involved in it.



His Majesty King Hussein II meets French President Jacques Chirac, Monday. His Majesty was on a European tour that took him to Britain, France and Germany. Both leaders discussed issues of mutual concern focusing on Lebanon and Iraq. The French President will visit Jordan in September.

UNRWA holds meeting to avert financial crisis

By Eyad Ammari
 Special to the Star

UNRWA is facing a financial crisis. It already has an \$8 million deficit in its budget and unless the donor countries, currently meeting in Amman, pledge more money, UNRWA could find itself in deep trouble, cutting the most essential services to Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA officials meeting in Amman denied this and preferred to concentrate on more immediate issues. "Conference delegates will discuss immediate measures to aid those suffering under the siege in Gaza and the West Bank," a source from UNRWA said.

Delegates from 26 countries and representatives from the European Commission are discussing pledges for donations, refugee support programs and, of course, the budget of 1996 and 1997 of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

The participants at the Informal Meeting of Major Donor and Host Governments discussed two important issues at two working groups yesterday, Wednesday. The first, titled, "Harmonization of UNRWA services: Challenges and Progress", was aimed at "assimilating the services UNRWA provides to refugees to standardize them and enhance specialization," the same source said.

A working paper was submitted by Mr Peter Hansen, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, on the very subject. The targets of the paper are primarily concerned with refugees in Palestine where services are more present than anywhere else due to the large size of refugees there.

The second, titled, "Finance", discussed the eight million dollar deficit in the \$670 million budget of 1996-1997. It is argued that it is

essential to pledge additional support for projects to continue. A paper has been presented listing the number of these unfunded projects. It lists nine projects in Gaza at an estimated cost of \$59.4 million, 16 in the West Bank at \$64.4, 11 in Jordan at \$3.5, 14 in Lebanon at \$6.3, 14 in Syria at \$5.4 and five Agency Wide projects at \$11.2, bringing the total funds needed with the deficit to \$158.4 million. Also, a briefing on the status in Lebanon was presented by Mr Lionel Brisson, the director of UNRWA affairs in Lebanon.

By 15 June, the relocation of the UNRWA Headquarters from Vienna to Gaza should be completed. "The fate of UNRWA is not yet decided. It's rumors that UNRWA will be dismantled in June 1999," the same source added.

"It's only the natural progress of the mandate (United Nations Mandate 194) that the extension of the operations of the UNRWA be voted on every three years. Last November the UN general assembly voted on three more years but nobody ever voted on or mentioned anything about them being the last three years."

UNRWA intensified its operations in Gaza. Over 700,000 refugees live in the Strip. These constitute 78% of the people living there. The refugees are plagued by the highest infant mortality in the region of 44 per thousand, an unemployment rate of 50% to 60%, and the largest concentration of inhabitants per square kilometer.



In the entire region, UNRWA has over 3.1 million registered refugees and employs around 30,000 people. About 50% of the expenditure of UNRWA is dedicated to education, running 643 pupil schools and 5168 vocational and teacher training schools. It has a pupil enrollment of about 410,000 (October 1994).

In Gaza alone, UNRWA is estimated to spend \$2.8 million dollars on education and related special projects alone

this year. While, for the same period, in the West Bank, the figure is \$28.5 million, \$51.9 in Jordan, \$16.5 in Syria, and \$19.6 in Lebanon.

UNRWA also runs 122 health centers with a recorded patients' visits of 6.45 million in 1994. UNRWA will spend \$3.5 million dollars on health services and related special projects in Gaza this year, \$16.1 in the West Bank, \$11.6 in Jordan, \$6.6 in Syria and \$9.2 in Lebanon, unless the paper on Lebanon changes the figures.

Panel discussion

Gandhi's thought lives on

By Harry Pullens
 Special to The Star

THE RELEVANCE of Non-violence to Contemporary Middle East came under discussion in a two-day event at the Royal Cultural Center (RCC), entitled "In the Memory of Mahatma Gandhi." The two-day event included an extensive photographic exhibition on the life and thought of Gandhi.

The panel discussion held under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan was organized by the Royal Institute of Inter-faith Studies and the Indian Cultural Association, in coordination with the Indian Embassy in Amman.

Today, because of the growing peace process in the region, this topic has become essential. Deservedly, it received positive appraisal by the participants.

Speakers on the panel, which consisted of two sessions, included Professor Ravinder Kumar, director of the Nehru Memorial Museum Library, New Delhi, Mahmoud El Sherif, former minister of information, Gajanan Wakandar, ambassador of India in Amman and A.B. Greenham, the chargé d'affaires of South African Embassy.

They all gave varying pres-

entations which included experiences and effect of non-violent method towards achieving socio-economic and political ends, and co-existence in the Middle East and beyond.

In the session moderated by Mr Iyad Qattan, former director of the Royal Cultural Center, Dr Kumar, who believes that non-violence is essential in solving not only the Middle East problems but other international problems underlined Gandhi's ideals. He stressed that the Gandhian tradition appeals to the "moral sense" of both the victor and the vanquished.

In his agitated presentation, Mr El Sherif, who explained that he is moved by the peaceful struggle of Gandhi for the liberation of India, said the man was admirable because of his ardent appeal for the consolidation of unity among all faiths and races in India.

But he contended that when considering Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and asking if such a philosophy can work in similar situation one must take into account the "special nature" of the Indian struggle and its "timing."

Although he pointed out that there is no comparison between the Israeli occupation of south-

ern Lebanon and the British occupation of India, nor do Palestine fits the Indian situation. He said: "one should never lose hope that non-violence can become the norm which governs relations between states and people in the region." (See story on page 5).

In the later session, Mr Greenham talked on the South African post-Apartheid experience which people across the world hailed as the most dramatic revolution in human history. Greenham explained that, the radical transformation is evolutionary rather than revolutionary as a result of concessions won by those relinquishing power. "For all their faults, the supporters of the former regime in South Africa had legitimate concerns for their future and security," he said. "I believe it is largely because these concerns were taken into account that the outcome in April 1994 was as peaceful as it was."

Other contributing factors to the achievement of the new South Africa he believes included the "tremendous heartfelt reconciliation" by the plural population of South Africa and the "amazing capacity for forgiveness on the part of the victims of Apartheid."

He explained that in his

capacity as a political analyst, he believes that the Holocaust had a fundamental impact on Israel. "A vital reason behind Israeli actions which cause so much pain to others is a sense of fundamental insecurity," he said.

Mr Greenham maintained that, the security concerns perceived by most Israelis are real enough to them. "This factor cannot be ignored, but I believe, to address it adequately, all parties must insist on keeping to the path of non-violence." Trying the other way—the path of violence—will only postpone an ultimate solution, he said.

The Indian ambassador, Gajanan Wakandar, who pointed out there is already an element of Gandhian thought in the Middle East peace negotiations says, "Gandhi, throughout his life strove to bring harmony, co-operation and trust between different religions, communities and cultures."

Gandhi fought against communal differences and violence. "If we have in India a constitution that guarantees equal political, economic and civil rights to all irrespective of religion, race or color, the credit for this happy state goes to Mahatma Gandhi," he stated.

A stable diet for the Japanese but an export to the world

Continued from page 1

supermarkets spend long hours at the bookshelves picking and choosing the mangas they want to read for the following week. The motto has become the comics in the shopping trolley.

"Because there is a great need for adult comic books, the manga industry became diversified, appealing to all segments of society," he added. At the time passed, there developed 'golf manga' for golf fans, and manga for the high-brow.

Comics, both magazines and books are the most popular in Japanese publishing. In 1992, comic magazines sold 320.1 billion yen (about \$3.2 billion), and comic books another 219.1 billion yen (about \$2.1 billion).

"These big sales are due to the invention of the story manga," Honda said. The comic industry constitutes 36% of publications in Japan. Publishing houses which had not published comics are now jumping on the bandwagon.

Among the best known comic magazines are *Shonen Jump* with a circulation in excess of six million per issue and *Shonen Magazine* whose circulation is 3.5 million.

Comic culture in Japan is very different from that in Europe and the United States. "They have Spiderman, Superman and others, but keep repeating the same characters," Mr Honda said. "In Japan there are different kinds of comics, a variety that is designed to cater for every need."

Comics fall into four categories: boys and girls comics, youths and adult comics. They are published either weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

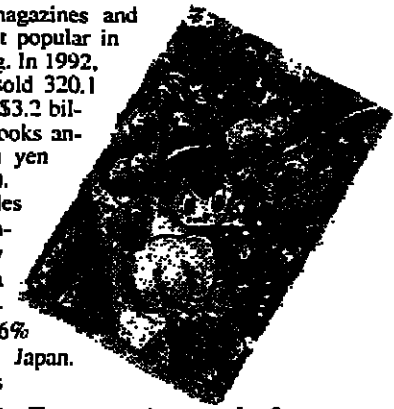
The three leading publishers of comic magazines *Shuei-sha*, *Kodan-sha* and *Shogakukan* succeeded in forging a link between comic magazines and video games.

Also many publishers run TV animations. These cartoons are then made in movies. These have become popularly known as media mixing.

"We have tried hard to entertain readers, by developing all sorts of sophisticated comic techniques and this is why a comic culture is unique to Japan," Honda said. "When some cartoons become very popular they are translated into different languages, mainly South East Asian languages and strangely enough in French and German."

In addition to story mangas, there are Japanese comics on things like cooking and philosophy. There is mangas about the life of Confucius, capitalism and Einstein's theory of relativity.

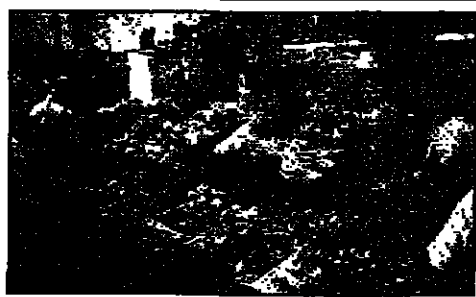
But that's not all. Sex mangas sell like hot cakes. "There is a sizable demand for sex mangas in Japan," Honda said. "They form about one-tenth of all mangas that are sold in Japan, and we also publish these kinds."



Tetsuwan Atomu, the famous cartoon which triggered off the story manga.



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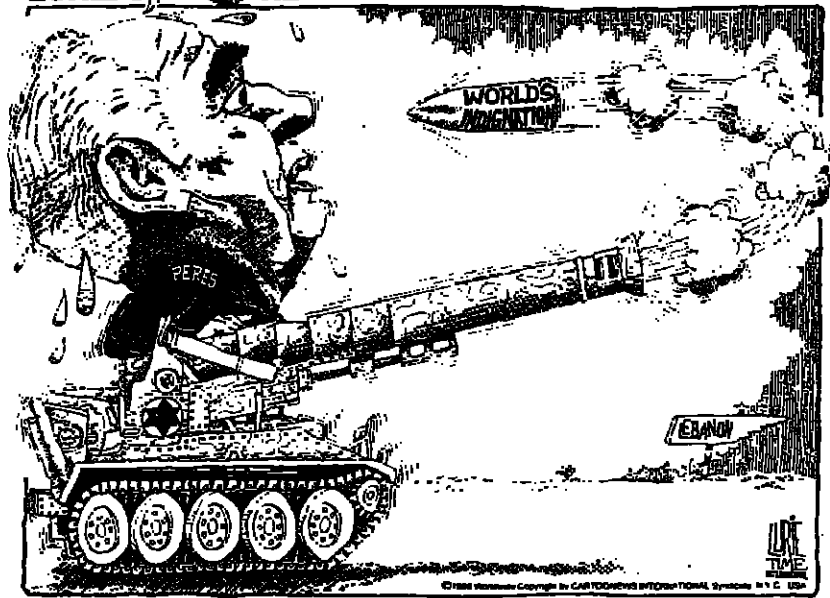
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LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Justice for Qana victims

THE DAMNING UN report about Israel's deliberate shelling of a UN base in the Lebanese village of Qana last month, which killed over 100 refugees, deserves stern action by the UN Security Council, the international community and the Arab countries. Incriminating Israel is not enough. Culprits must be brought to justice if the report is to mean anything and if the credibility of the world body, already strained, is to be sustained.

Of course the United States, which was trying to "water down" the report's findings, will do its best to bury the affair having been involved itself in encouraging Israel's Grapes of Wrath campaign against Lebanon and its people. It's excuse is feeble and shameful; to save the peace process and the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hizbollah. But the real nagging question is what peace process is America trying to save? Is it a process that is punctuated by the shelling of civilians, villages and industrial installations? Or is it a process that secretes a form of collective punishment that puts Israel in the league of colonial and despotic powers of the 19th and early 20th centuries? Who benefits from such a mockery?

By attempting to get Israel off the hook, for the umpteenth time, the United States has become a full accomplice in Israel's heinous crimes against unarmed and defenseless Arabs.

What is revealing about the conclusions of the UN report is the malicious policy of Israel against its Arab neighbors at a time when it preaches coexistence and harmony between the two peoples. We wonder how any Lebanese, or Arab for that matter, can entertain the concept of coexistence when he is reminded of the repulsive scenes of the Qana massacre. And one wonders if Israel and its leaders will ever understand the reasons behind our anger and despair. If they won't, then they should take a long look at what happened in Qana.

The Qana massacre, which took place right under the eyes and noses of the peace-keeping forces, is an ironic reminder that peace is not made at negotiating tables and is not born overnight when treaties are signed and ratified. The peace process had a lot of promise of a comprehensive and just settlement. But today Israel is still the aggressor, the occupier and the perpetrator. So are we closer to our goal today than when we started three years ago?

The Qana massacre is a classic war crime. The victims are known, the witnesses are known and so are the culprits. But do we expect to see justice? Can we dream of seeing the day when an international tribunal will bring those who gave the order for the shelling to justice? Will we see the day when a war criminal like Ariel Sharon will stand for trial for his role in the Sabra and Shatila massacre of 1982?

Peace is a noble cause indeed. The Arabs have come out to support a just and lasting peace. But America's peace is now tarnished with the blood of innocent women and children. For that we demand justice. ■

War crimes tribunal opens in The Hague

By William Drodzick
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

THE HAGUE—The trial of a Bosnian Serb charged with torturing and murdering his Muslim and Croat neighbors opened Tuesday before the first international war crimes tribunal since the postwar judgments at Nuremberg and Tokyo.

Dusan "Dusko" Tadic, 40, a cafe owner and karate instructor, looked nervous and confused as he stepped into the dock as the first person to stand trial before a United Nations tribunal set up three years ago to investigate Balkan war crimes. If convicted of all charges, he could face life imprisonment.

Prosecutor Grant Niemann accused Tadic of helping Serb forces round up thousands of Muslims and Croats in a wave of ethnic cleansing in 1992 in the Prijedor region of central Bosnia. He said the evidence "will prove beyond any reasonable doubt" that Tadic engaged in acts of despicable brutality against his former neighbors, who were detained at three prison camps.

Tadic's lawyer, Michail Vladimiroff, said that while such crimes had taken place, they

could not have been committed by his client. He said Tadic was neither a member of the Bosnian Serb militia nor active in nationalist politics and warned against an unfair trial that would frame Tadic for heinous crimes perpetrated by others.

Presiding Judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, an American law professor and former federal court judge, insisted that "under any system of justice he (Tadic) is entitled to a fair trial, and to ensure that he receives one is our paramount purpose for being here."

The trial, which is predicted to last several months, represents a milestone in the campaign waged by chief prosecutor Richard Goldstone to seek retribution for the victims of atrocities rarely seen in Europe since World War II.

While Tadic is widely considered only a minor figure in the wave of murder, rape and forced deportations that characterized the nearly four-year war in Bosnia, Goldstone's strategy is to build a pyramid of evidence by prosecuting those who carried out crimes to get at those who gave the orders. The tribunal has indicted 57 people—43 Bosnian Serbs, 3 Serbians, 8 Bosnian Croats, and 3 Bosnian Muslims—on war crimes charges. ■

'In memory of Mahatma Gandhi'

Contemporary relevance of non-violence to the region

EDITOR'S NOTE: This paper was presented by Mr. Mahmoud Al-Sherif, a former minister of information, to a seminar on "The Relevance of non-Violence to the Contemporary Middle East," part of a two-day event entitled "In Memory of Mahatma Gandhi," organized in Amman on 4-5 May by the Royal Institute of Inter-Faith Studies, the Indian Cultural Institute and the Indian Embassy in Amman.

Like millions of people all over the world I was fascinated by the peaceful struggle of Mahatma Gandhi for the liberation of India from British colonial rule. I followed the news of his hunger strikes, his call to the Indian people to boycott British products, and to refuse to pay taxes, as well as his ardent appeal for the consolidation of internal unity among all the faiths and races in India to face the challenge of occupation. His popular crusade and his style in combating a powerful empire earned him a special place amongst the great leaders of nations.

Gandhi was a unique man, a rare phenomenon in human history which does not appear too often.

As a young man, I read the autobiography of Gandhi and the books written about his struggle. He was an unusual mixture of a saint, a political strategist and a freedom fighter.

He embodied the highest and noblest virtues in man. His legacy and heroism will continue to be an inspiration and guidance to the people of India, and the nations of the world.

Yet, when considering Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance and asking ourselves whether such a philosophy can work in similar situations one must take into account the "special nature" of the Indian struggle for independence, its "timing" and the dramatic changes which took place after World War II, both in Britain and internationally.

It was true that the British Raj had a huge army in India, but India was far away. It was a vast country with an enormous population. Besides, Britain came out of the war a bruised country, an aging empire, only to face a new world, where empires were becoming legacies of the past, and colonized nations were clamoring for independence. So, without under-rating the sacrifices and heroism of Gandhi and the Indian nation, one should realize that it would have been difficult and costly for Britain, should the events in India were to transform into a large scale revolution, and its people were to resort to armed struggle. Therefore, the "timing," changing circumstances, the fatigue and weariness of the occupying power, the sheer size of the colony, and the massive number of its people worked in favor of a peaceful, non-violent struggle to end the occupation.

Also, Gandhi's support of Britain's war efforts, and his lofty idealism, won him the respect and admiration of many liberals in Britain (both in the press and in parliament), and many distinguished personalities supported his call for Indian independence.

A similar situation, though with some variation, prevailed in South Africa, where it was obvious that a white-African minority can never succeed in suppressing the quest of the indigenous majority population for freedom and democracy in the face of a worldwide condemnation and boycott. So they had to accept the inevitable and surrender power to the African National Congress.

Now, we turn to the question of the relevance of the doctrine of non-violence to the Middle East. In the Middle East, we have today two types of violence. The first type is provoked by a foreign power occupying a national territory, and the second is prompted by religious-political motivation in response to internal turmoil in certain Middle Eastern countries.

A typical example of the first kind is what goes on today in the West Bank and Gaza, and Southern Lebanon, between Hamas and the Lebanese resistance on the one side, and the Israeli authorities on the other.

Most Arabs view the actions of Hamas and Hizbollah as legitimate national resistance. While Israel and its supporters brand such activities as "terrorism."

A typical example of the second type is the religious-political violence which is going on today between the governments of Egypt, Algeria, Bahrain and

Turkey and militant opposition groups in these countries.

Let us examine the first type of violence, and see if the Gandhian technique of non-violence can be applied to it.

There is no comparison between the Israeli occupation of say, southern Lebanon, and the British occupation of India, neither in terms of the proximity of the occupier to the occupied territory, nor in terms of population or the balance of power between the antagonists. The Lebanese do not have the same factors which worked in favor of Gandhi's non-violent resistance. They do not receive genuine support from the West nor even in the Security Council, where the United States is always ready to use its veto to protect Israel from any sort of condemnation.

The second point of comparison is "cultural." Without appearing to portray British imperial behavior in the colonies as benign, the fact is that Israeli practices in southern Lebanon and in Palestine are more brutal and indiscriminate. And if some of the British people developed, since the '30s and '40s, aversion against the brutalities of its soldiers in India (a sentiment that supported the Indian non-violent struggle) such aversion remains to be seen amongst the Israelis by and large, towards the behavior of their army in the Occupied Territories. "Sensitivity" against excessive use of force by the army differs in the two situations under comparison.

A striking evidence of what I am talking about is the fact that Prime Minister Peres' popularity amongst the Israelis soared in the polls to record heights during his latest attack on southern Lebanon where 200 civilians died, 300,000 fled their homes in terror, and where bridges, hospitals, roads, and a number of villages were raised to the ground. Carrying the comparison a bit further, we have only to imagine the reaction of the British public if John Major was to retaliate in Northern Ireland for the attacks of the IRA in London the way Mr Peres retaliated against the Hizbollah attacks.

This comparison may help us answer the question of whether a campaign of non-violence by the Lebanese would put an end to the Israeli occupation of their country, the same way non-violence had finally secured the independence of India from the British.

As for the Palestinians (before the conclusion of the Oslo accord between the PLO and Israel) they have tried some sort of non-violent resistance to the occupation, through their popular uprising known as the Intifada. But even this minimal sort of relatively peaceful resistance was met with ruthless "iron-fist" resolve by the Israeli army. People can still remember seeing on television Israeli soldiers breaking the bones of children, and we are all aware of Israel's policy of deporting tens of thousands of Palestinians to concentration camps or detaining them without trial. And even today, Israel still resorts to the policy of collective punishment against suspects where relatives are arrested, their houses blown up or bulldozed.

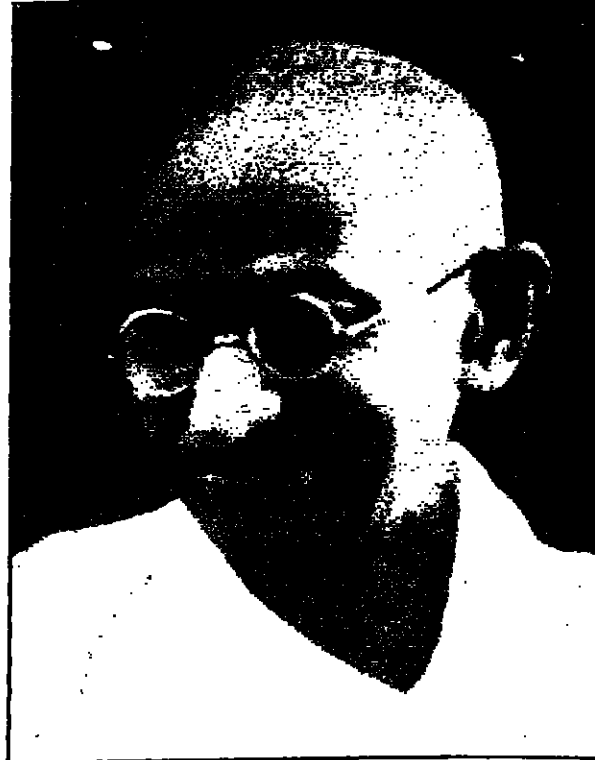
Some may still argue that in spite of the Israeli tough measures, the Intifada has contributed to the launching of the peace process, and that this is a proof that non-violence has worked in favor

of the Palestinians.

It will be for the historians to decide exactly how the Intifada, the second Gulf war and convergence of the strategic interests of Israel and America each contributed to the launching of the Middle East peace process. But one has only to look at the situation prevailing in Gaza and the West Bank today to know the kind of "peace" such an approach has produced. It may be true that the peace process has created direct contact and mutual recognition between the Israeli and the Palestinian leaderships. But the independence and the real peace the Palestinians have been hoping for are as elusive as ever. And because the fragmented, artificial "peace" that was given to the Palestinians is far from giving the pride, dignity and the economic well-being they struggled for, the "rejectionists" among them are actively trying to pull it down.

One does not condone acts of violence committed by Hamas against civilian Israelis. But these acts represent only one side of the coin. Considering the harsh conditions under which the Palestinians have been committed to live, and the assassination by the Israeli agents of Hamas leaders in Gaza and Ma'ala, violent responses by Hamas should come as no surprise.

Why does Hamas and Hizbollah invoke the name of Islam to justify their



questions, and people will provide different answers to them, each supporting his answer with an argument which he profoundly believes to be plausible.

Now I turn to the second type of violence, that which stems from, or is associated with internal conflicts in some Middle Eastern countries. The reasons behind such a phenomenon, is both manifold and varied. The common pattern, however, is for a militant opposition group, resorting to terrorist acts against its government to force it to accept its demands or, failing to do so, to unseat its form power.

These militant groups differ, of course, in their ideologies and objectives. Some are religious, others are ethnic, while yet others are social or political. The targeted governments usually respond to the terrorist acts of these groups in ways that are brutal, discriminate, and sometimes no less terrorist in nature. The result is a vicious circle of reciprocal slaughter.

How can this cycle of violence be ended? And is there a possibility for the legitimate demands of these dissent groups to be accommodated peacefully so they won't have to resort to violence? There are no easy answers to these questions. But I believe that since unrest in these countries is usually associated with poverty, unemployment, social inequality, oppression, and the denial of basic human rights, especially the right of peaceful dissent and power sharing, then it is incumbent on the governments of these countries to follow the course of reason, to exert genuine effort to address the grievances of dissenters in their countries and to engage them in a dialogue, if they want to pacify the political climate, and make the resort to violence unnecessary.

But a pertinent question imposes itself here, why wasn't Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence—which worked about the independence of India when directed against a foreign power—equally successful when applied to internal strife in India emanating from ethnic or religious conflicts? Considering that Gandhi himself, the late Indian Gandhi and her son Rajiv, both former prime ministers, all died as victims of bigotry and internal violence, and thinking of the recurrent incidents of violent clashes between Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs in India, one wonders what happened to Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence in contemporary India, and whether it can be rekindled to heal the wounds of internal conflicts in that country.

Reverting to the contemporary Middle East, one should never lose hope that non-violence can become the norm which governs relations between states and peoples in the region.

However, for that to happen it requires the cultivation of a "culture" of social justice, fairness, tolerance and peace amongst all the faiths and nations in the Middle East. It also requires the development of democratic rule, where difference of opinion can be harmonized peacefully, where opposition is tolerated, and where political and cultural pluralism is encouraged.

Another important factor in curbing violence in the Middle East is for the Israelis to realize that peace and occupation cannot go hand in hand, that the best way to put an end to violence in their northern borders is to terminate their occupation of southern Lebanon, and that if they wish to live in peace with the Palestinians they must accept the Palestinian right for complete independence and give them the kind of peace they can cherish and protect.

It is also necessary for foreign powers to refrain from imposing their will on the Arab-countries of the Middle East. They should treat Arab culture and Islam with respect, and accept the Muslims' right to be different, and live if they so wish, according to the tenets of their religion.

When all these conditions are allowed to materialize, I believe that a new climate of moderation and political relaxation will prevail in the Middle East, where tension will gradually disappear, and the resort to violence will become unnecessary. ■



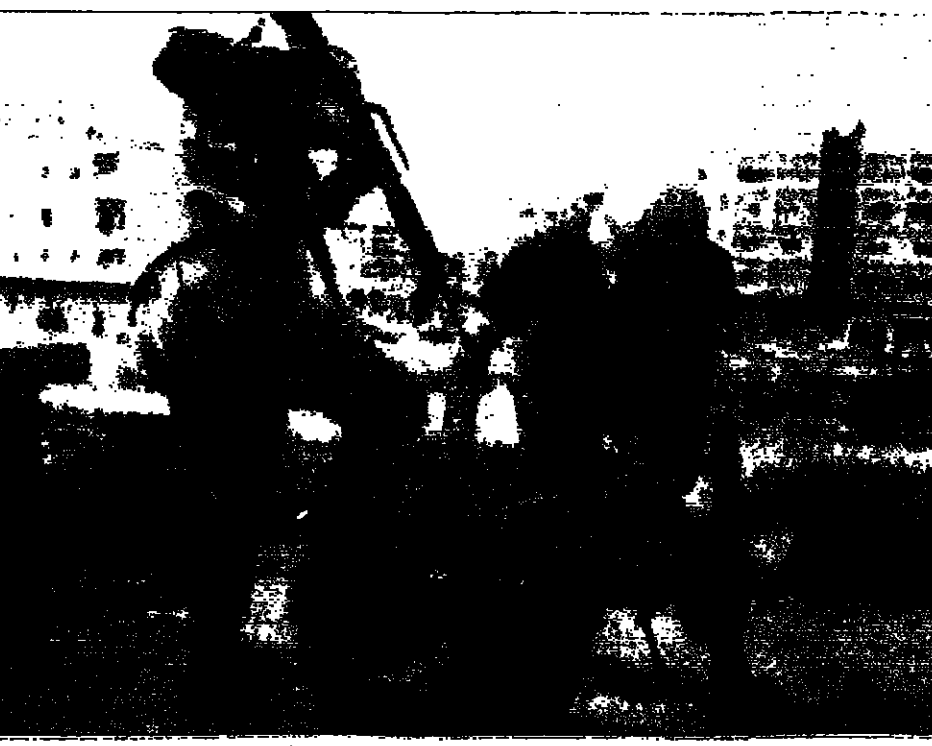
actions, it may be asked, Does Islam encourage the fight against foreign domination? and does it allow such a fight to include the non-combatants?

There is no doubt that Islam commands its followers to reject foreign domination and foreign infringement on their freedom. This is why it has been a source of inspiration to Muslim freedom fighters throughout the ages.

But war of aggression of any sort is categorically prohibited in Islam. And civilian non-combatants are not to be harmed in any way according to Islamic tradition of war. When the first successor to the prophet, Khalifa Abu Bakr, dispatched a Muslim army to the northern region of the Arabian Peninsula to engage the Byzantine armies in the 7th century A.D. he made the following order to its commander: "Never attack a child, a woman, or an old man. Never pursue anyone who flees from the battlefield. Nurse the injured soldiers of the enemy, and take care of the prisoners of war. Do not finish off injured combatants, and never mutilate the body of a dead enemy. Do not burn trees, and do not take fruits thereof without the permission of their owners." These were the principles which guided the behavior of Muslim armies in the past.

But things have changed, and we are now living in a different age and different circumstances, where the dividing line between armies and the civilian population in states of war is becoming blurred, and where the chivalrous qualities of the warriors of the past have almost disappeared.

In this context, one is allowed to ask, whether the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by American atomic bombs during the last world war and the annihilation of their civilian population was necessary, or ethically acceptable? Similarly, one is also forced to ask: Are the attacks by the Palestinians on the Israeli settlers in the West Bank permissible? Are they really innocent non-combatant "civilians"? All these are difficult



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Business scene

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The Jordanian business scene is showing signs of recovery after a period of stagnation. The government has implemented several measures to stimulate economic growth, including tax incentives for investors and the establishment of new industrial zones. The private sector is also showing signs of activity, with several new companies being established in the manufacturing and services sectors. However, the banking sector remains a challenge, with high levels of non-performing loans and a need for financial reform. The overall outlook is cautiously optimistic, but more progress is needed to achieve sustainable economic growth.

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Business scene

■ The CBI shows that the Banks' assets by the end of March '96 valued JD 3,351,314,213, and its gold assets were worth JD 138,953,343, while the CBI's assets of foreign and convertible currencies amounted to JD 1,116,343,700.

■ Jordan National Shipping Lines Co., realized a net profit of JD 1,874 million in 1995. The company's assets increased in the same year to JD 21,732 million, and its total earnings amounted to JD 12,075,548, while expenses were JD 9,936,501.

■ The Holy Land Insurance Co. (HLIC) is to increase its paid up capital to 1 million dinars. Before the appropriation, the HLIC realized in 1995 a net profit of JD 482,421 (an 85.7% increase over 1994). According to the annual report, the HLIC installed assets amounted to JD 2,043,797 (a 19.5% growth over 1994), while total compensation amounts were JD 1,575,624 (a 19.8% increase over the year before).

■ The financial report of Jordan's Paper and Cardboard Co. (JPC) shows that the company's sales in 1995 amounted to JD 7.4 million (a 29% increase over 1994), and its profits reached JD 1.02 million. The report also indicates that the shareholders' equity increased by 3.3% and totalled JD 7.76 million. The JPC working capital amounted to JD 3.3 million in 1995.

■ Shareholders' equity of Al Sharq Investments Projects Co. (AIPC) mounted to JD 4.79 million by the end of '95. The annual report of the AIPC states that the company's net profit between 20 December '94 to 31 December '95 was about JD 304,800. The AIPC, which was founded in late '94 as a shareholding company, has set up a branch company for hotel and tourism projects with a paid-up capital of JD 0.5 million, and bought a land lot for this purpose at a cost of JD 1.9 million in Amman.

■ Production volume of the Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Co. (JPMC) in 1995 was 9105 tons, a little less than its output in the year before. Company sales for the local market amounted to 9455 tons, whereas it was 12,743 tons in '94. The company's profits which are liable for appropriation were JD 606,332 of which JD 114,711 were added to the company's voluntary reserve.

Foreign Exchange		
Wednesday, 8 MAY		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
British Pound	1.0667	1.0720
Japanese Yen	0.4646	0.4669
Swiss Franc	0.5694	0.5723
German Mark	0.1375	0.1382
French Franc	0.6724	0.6758
Italian Lira	0.4159	0.4180
Spanish Peseta	0.0455	0.0457

Privatization in Jordan:
The plan and obstacles

SIMILAR TO many developing states, the public sector in Jordan was created and expanded for practical reasons, while at the same time the private sector was given free hand in its economic activity. However, privatization was introduced in the country only in the wake of the economic crisis that occurred in the early 1980s, and aggravated in the second half of the last decade, as a result of the sharp decline in oil prices. Indeed, the impact of that crisis was much heavier than on any others owing to Jordan's special dependence on the Gulf oil producing countries.

In actual terms, the remittances of Jordanian expatriates from the Gulf states constituted two-thirds of Jordan's exports and services. The aid program to the Jordanian economy from those same countries amounted to about 50% of the domestic earnings of the budget. Meanwhile, almost half of Jordan's exports went to Arab countries, thus economic growth rates slowed down and, in return, unemployment and foreign debt ratios increased.

At the request of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Dr. Najeeb Easa, professor of economics and development at the Lebanese University, prepared a study in Arabic titled *Privatization in the ESCWA countries with Diversified Economies*, in

which he states that "though privatization wasn't initially introduced in Jordan within an official and comprehensive program of economic consolidation and structural reform, it was, however, propounded in the late 1980s in the framework of a package of measures aimed at the revival of the Jordanian economy and for rescuing it from recession." To achieve this goal, the private sector was encouraged by the government to contribute to this recovery. Also, the government introduced a number of measures, including issuing laws to promote foreign investments and to liberalize foreign trade.

This attitude was supported by the recommendation adopted by the Advisory Economic Council, which incorporated representatives from the private and public sectors, on privatization, and by the decision of the cabinet on 26 August 1986. This reflected the government's adoption of privatization as an official policy. Among others, this decision stipulated:

- To transfer a number of public corporations into shareholding companies which operate on commercial basis, while the public sector owns all of its shares;
- Allow the private sector to appropriate some of the public corporations and to manage them after their conversion into shareholding companies; and
- To pursue a gradual trans-

fer policy based on a clear program of priorities and detailed measures of execution for each individual case;

Though, the above government decision didn't outline specific aims of this privatization process, the ESCWA study infers the following targets:

- To promote public corporations' efficiency and performance;
- To encourage the participation of the private sector to shoulder the responsibility of the public sector towards the development of the national economy;
- To create proper ground and environment which strengthen the role and economic activity of the private sector;
- In effect, the government defined the general guidelines that govern the transfer of public corporations into private companies. These considerations include:
 - Not to privatize public corporations if it affects the state's revenues;
 - Not to privatize public corporations if their performance and communal services is likely to be reduced or negatively affected;
 - Not to sell off failed public corporations;
 - To postpone privatizing those corporations whose conversion into the private sector would lead to a price increase in their services, such as the Water Authority; and

■ Not to sell off those corporations that are likely to lead to a monopoly situation.

The ESCWA study points out that the Public Transport Corp., the Telecommunications Corp., and Royal Jordanian are the strongest candidates for privatization. The aims are clear: Administrative development, alleviating their financial burden, and to attract skilled manpower.

The study notes that the above governmental decision remained the only framework for privatization for several years. However, and more importantly, the whole process practically stayed at the initial steps which were taken in mid-1988. Thus, the privatization of the Public Transport Corp., which realized big losses in 1986 and 1987, stopped short of turning it into a public shareholding company.

As for the TCC, whose earnings made a substantial contribution to the state budget, privatization didn't exceed the drafting of a law which provides for its transfer and restructuring to operate on commercial basis. RJ has realized concrete steps with regard to its re-organization. In short, the study concludes, the practical measures of privatization in Jordan were confined to the completion of legal aspects which prepare these corporations to perform on commercial basis.

The study explains that the standstill situation in the privat-

ization process in Jordan is the direct result of the worsening economic situation. The latter factor was due to the decline in oil prices, legal disengagement from the West Bank, and the loss of foreign currencies which used to be transferred by the Jordanian expatriates in the Gulf states in the 1980s.

These led to a sharp increase in the rates of inflation and unemployment (35% and 30% respectively), and to a drastic deficit in the country's trade balance. Hence, the government concentrated its efforts to treat the new emerging situation by adopting a strict five-year program of economic consolidation and structural reform in return for the rescheduling of the country's \$7 billion foreign debt.

Therefore, it was only natural, in such an unstable situation, that the private sector didn't respond to the call for its expansion. In fact, in addition to the economic recession, the hikes of interest rates at home gave the liquid assets preference to invest rather than to buy public corporations. As a result, both sectors continued waiting for the outcome of the reform program. However, the second Gulf war stopped the work with the reform program, and the privatization remained as it was. But it was introduced again in 1991 in a new reform plan signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). ■

Conference tackles economic performance

AL URDUN Al Jadid Research Center, in cooperation with Philadelphia University and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, is organizing a conference titled *The Jordanian Economy Within its Regional Framework, A Future Outlook* between 26-29 May.

In the light of the rapid developments that are taking place in the region, the organizers are posing the following questions: where does Jordan's economy stand amidst these changes? What are the expected repercussions and consequences on this economy in the coming period? What are Jordan's economic potentials which enable it to meet these challenges? How can Jordan adapt itself to these challenges and changes? Has Jordan the required infrastructures, necessary legislation, and appropriate management to match with the anticipated developments in the region as a whole, especially in the inter economic relations?

The conference is expected to

bring together economists, researchers, experts, decision-makers, legislators, businessmen and representatives of concerned Jordanian, regional and international organizations to present their views, discuss opinions, and explore prospects.

Three major topics are outlined for the participants to dwell on during the 4-day conference. They are:

- The potential impact of regional developments on the major sectors of the Jordanian economy;
- The Jordanian economy and the likelihood of the formation of a New Middle East Market;
- The role of the state in economic operations within the new regional circumstances.

Each topic will be presented by a working paper. Then the participants will divide into smaller groups to discuss specific aspects. Summaries of the deliberations of these workshops will

be put forward for a general discussion by the participants.

A roundtable will be devoted for discussion on the challenges facing the Middle East economies, especially that of Jordan, while the final session of the conference will listen to the concluding remarks, and recommendations.

The aim of the conference is to discuss the recent changes in the region and their impact on Jordan's economy. It will examine the ability of Jordan's economy to stand up to these challenges. The conference is expected to examine Jordan's economic potential for growth within the regional context. Hence, it will be an opportunity for those parties concerned on the national, regional, and international levels, individuals and organizations, to express specific ideas and options for economic cooperation with Jordan and other countries of the Middle East. ■

ABH goes into Scotland

AIRLINES OF Britain Group (ABH) is to acquire a 100% shareholding in the Aberdeen-based Business Air.

The agreement assures the long-term future of Business Air which has been experiencing significant losses. The airlines will continue to be managed from Scotland. Business Air will continue to operate its network of services from Scotland to Manchester, Denmark and the Shetland Islands. They will also diversify into a service providing role for British Midland under the terms of a well-lease agreement.

As a result, the acquisition will lead to a significant increase in the number of services and customer choice provided by British Midland. With effect from Monday 29 April, British Midland will now serve Aberdeen's Dyce airport for the first time, with non-stop services from East Midlands.

The service between East Midlands and Edinburgh will increase by one return flight per day, to four daily flights. Additionally, services from East Midlands to Belfast and Amsterdam will also increase by one return

flight per day. These extra services will utilize the aircraft of Business Air, which will also be used to operate the new East Midlands to Dublin route.

This growing commitment to East Midlands coincides with the recent opening of a new terminal building at the airport, and reflects the Group's continuing commitment to regional UK services.

Austin Reid, group finance director of the Airlines of Britain Group, said:

"We are delighted to welcome Business Air into the Group. The compatibility of route networks together with the opportunities for future synergies means that this should prove a sound investment."

"The network of UK, regional scheduled services which ABH provides through its operating airlines will be strengthened. In particular, East Midlands Airport will now be able to boast 13 destinations offered by British Midland. In addition, the Business Air name will remain flying and will continue to provide the quality service for which it has become renowned." ■

American Promotion Week
Many goodies in store

THE PROSPECT for greater economic cooperation is great as the American Embassy in Amman launches its fourth Annual American Promotion Week. The week is an annual event organized by the US Embassy in cooperation and participation of local representatives of American firms and agents of American goods and services.

This year's exhibition which is scheduled to take place in the grounds of the Amman International Fair Hall in Marj' Al-Hamam will be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti.

In a briefing at the US Embassy, Mr. Gary Grappo, Counsellor for Economic/Commercial Affairs said that this year's exhibit is expected to be the largest and most successful.

Grappo said that 42 Jordanian companies representing a wide variety of US products and services will take part in the show. The week, which is aimed at bolstering US-Jordanian trade relations and encourage US and Jordanian businessmen to set up business operations, will be opened from May 13-17.

Grappo remarked that it is one of the most enjoyable things the Embassy does. "We talk a lot about business, but we rarely have time to show what we have."

He maintained that because of

Jordan's strategic location, American business people are looking to this country as a serious place for their products and are keen on using Jordan as a spring board for the rest of the countries in the region.

My Fawaz Sha'lan, vice chairman of the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) who spoke about the JTA's recent trade delegation to the US, said the level of interest of Americans to do business with Jordanian businessmen is very high.

The JTA, which he explained is a lobbying, trade group was especially in the US to sell the Jordanian capability and seek cooperation, he said.

The delegation, he said, met with both the Department of Commerce and Department of State. They also met many officials of business associations which included the US Small Business Association, US-Arab Businessmen and Professional Association and the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

American products and services on display are expected to include automobiles, automotive accessories, spare parts, furniture, clothing, pharmaceuticals, water related technology, musical instruments, cosmetics, financial and banking services, consulting services, electronic and security systems. ■

Business Chronicle

The economic reform and the real needs

THE GOVERNMENT measures to accelerate economic reform in line with the World Bank proposals have given a positive picture of the national economy. The official reports of assessment of the CBI in this regard add to the consolidation of this picture in the eyes of the world.

Examples of the economic achievements can be seen in the 5% annual growth rate in 1995, increased investment, increase in compulsory and voluntary reserves, the reduction of inflation, and the stability of the dinar's exchange rate.

The question that poses itself is: if that is the actual situation, where do these revenues go? Dr. Jawad Anani wonders. He answers by saying that a large change in sectoral appropriation has taken place. He explained that while the earnings of certain sectors of industry diminished, they increased in construction, mining and tourism. And where we see recession and bottlenecks in agriculture and public transport, we witness a boom in tourism activities.

He adds that though some people complain about the lack of textile and foodstuff items in local markets, others hint a hidden rejoice at the increased exports to Europe, North America, the Far East and South Asia. Dr. Anani admits that an increase in the earnings of the health, education, banking and insurance sectors has been felt, and that the monetary funds have been moved from the hands of the individuals to financial institutions, investment corporations, social security and saving funds.

But what Dr. Anani doesn't mention is that the enforcing and increasing of the sales and indirect taxes have actually led to hikes in prices and, thereupon, weakened the buying power, especially as wages and salaries remained as they are. On the other hand, the Government's liberalization of foreign trade in compliance with the terms of the World Bank and IMF has increased the deficit in the state's trade balance, and subsequently in the balance of payment. True, the stability in the exchange rate of the dinar vis-a-vis foreign currencies is a positive and correct step, it has led to an increase in the interest rates, and ultimately discouraged investment.

Meanwhile, the reduction of governmental expenditures through the withdrawal of state subsidies to certain basic consumer goods and services (e.g. water, electricity, fuel) have also led to a high increase of the prices and production costs.

What is urgently needed in this regard is an economic reform program that corresponds to the real needs of the society not that which meets the demands of the world financial institutions. ■

JTE to go to Birmingham

● The General Manager of Jordan's Technical Establishment (JTE), Mr. Khalil Al Khaili and Mr. Iyad Hifawi, the head of Security and Protection Section at JTE are to leave Amman to attend the International Fire and Security Exhibition and Conference (IFSEC) '96, which will be held in Birmingham on 13th May.

JTE, the Agent for the Fire Burglary Instrument Inc (FBI) in the Middle East will also attend the FBI third annual and international distributors meeting. They will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

NBK gets top rating

LONDON—IBCA, the European credit rating agency, has published its first ratings for the National Bank of Kuwait. The Bank has been assigned a short-term rating of A2, a long-term rating of BBB+ and an individual rating of B and a legal rating of 2.

The NBK is primarily a commercial and retail bank and is the dominant Kuwaiti bank with 33% of the system's total commercial banking assets and equally strong market shares of lending, deposit and most other banking products. Performance has been exceptionally consistent from its foundation in 1952, only once failing to post a year on year increase in profit. It has come through the two Kuwaiti banking crises, occasioned by the collapse of the Souk Al-Manakh (informal stock exchange) in 1982 and the Iraqi invasion in 1990. It is the only Kuwaiti bank with a significant international presence, being represented in London, Paris, New York, Singapore and Britain. ■

Water crisis in Middle East
Government action needed

UNLESS THEY drastically change the way they manage their water resources the countries of the Middle East and North Africa will suffer from severe water shortages and economic decline in the next 30 years, warns the World Bank.

Per capita water supply in the region is now one-third of 1960 levels and is expected to halve in the next three decades, according to a Bank report that analyzes the state of water resources in North Africa and the Middle East (MENA). It lists the options and opportunities facing the region, and proposes a plan of action for averting a crisis.

The report *From Scarcity to Security: Averting a Water Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa*, warns that the growing water shortage could lead to a vicious cycle of stagnant economic growth and a drop in the investments needed to improve water resources. The report says the region's looming water crisis can be averted, provided that governments move quickly and with the appropriate policies. If steps are taken immediately, water availability for domestic and industrial use could be increased by 50 percent and municipal water losses—now accounting for about 50 percent of supplied water—could be halved in the next 10 years.

"These changes must take place quickly," said Kemsal Dervis, World Bank vice president for MENA. "The Bank has outlined steps which we think will

help countries in the region tackle the critical water shortages before they further affect human welfare, before they have a greater impact on economic activity and stability."

The bank is proposing four priority initiatives to be undertaken by governments, in partnership with domestic users and external sources of financial and technical support.

They involve: changing attitudes at all levels, through government public awareness campaigns, participation by local communities in decision making, and the creation of water users associations to provide better services; integrating water resources management by having a national water authority take central responsibility for policy making while decentralizing the management of water delivery to river basin and regional authorities, local utilities and rural communities, using water more efficiently and reducing pollution. This would include reducing demand by cutting subsidies, improving irrigation efficiency, opening up to the private sector, controlling groundwater extraction, improving water quality and reusing treated wastewater, seeking alternative sources of water through water imports, regional and local water markets and, at a later stage, affordable desalination.

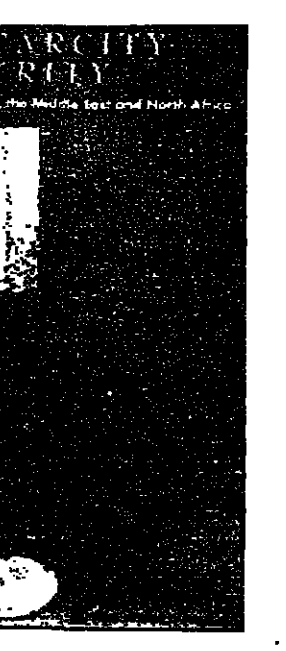
The World Bank estimates that \$45 billion to \$60 billion will be needed in the region over the next 10 years to achieve these goals. Donors are

expected to contribute about 25 percent of the costs, but the bulk must come from the private sector.

"Implementing the water strategy proposed in this report will not be easy," Dervis said, "but it is necessary to ensure the region's long-term water security, its prosperity, and peace throughout the Middle East and North Africa."

Country-level activities should be supplemented by regional and international partnerships, the report says. International cooperation should also include watershed planning, hydrological data collection and exchange, and development of institutional networks. Closer coordination of donor assistance would be essential as would a partnership between the region and donors.

The Bank is calling for a regional water conference in 1997 to launch a MENA Water Partnership and Action Plan between governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. "I believe the international community, including the World



Bank, must play its part in the effort to avert a water crisis," Dervis said.

The World Bank is the largest international source of financing for water projects and has lent more than \$36 billion—of which 13 percent went to MENA—since 1950 for investments in irrigation, water supply and sanitation. The Bank is currently involved in the Global Water Partnership (GWP), launched in August 1995 to help local, national, and regional authorities address shortages in drinking water and sanitation system. ■

MARKET WATCH 4-7 MAY

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Jordan Rock Wool Industry	5.26	Jordan Rock Wool Industry	5.00	JIMCO	5.88	JIMCO	5.58
Arab Financial Investment	5.00	Arab Financial Investment	4.76	LeT Tissue Manufacturing	4.45	Housing Bank	2.22
United Transport Development	5.00	United Transport Development	4.72	Livestock & Poultry	3.51	Jordan Kuwait Bank	1.76
Jordan District Electricity	5.03	Jordan Pipes Industry	5.19	El-Zay Ready Wear	4.87	Amman Investment Bank	5.71
Lebanon Development Bank	5.00	Business Bank	5.00	Business Bank	4.14	El-Zay Ready Wear	5.12
Real Estate Investment	4.81	Yarmouk Insurance	4.92	Arab Financial Investment	3.61	Livestock & Poultry	5.08
General Price Pointer	149,210		148,550		148,330		148,620
Trade Volume	851646		779521		995198		922038
Stock Volume	585975		480632		866458		717517
Highest Traded Stocks							
Jordan Industry Supplies	71.766	Land Development	117.161	Ceramic Industry	218.445	Gulf Bank	224.113

World Bank report links free trade and economic growth

By Berta Gomez
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The regions of the developing world that grew fastest over the past five years—East Asia, South Asia and Latin America—also made the greatest advances towards integration with the world economy, according to a new World Bank analysis.

The May 7 report, "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries 1996," also warns that many developing countries are failing to open up to the global market, and as a consequence are lagging behind countries that have adopted trade-oriented policies.

"No study can conclusively demonstrate causality" between trade liberalization and economic growth, Bank official Uri Dadush told reporters. But he pointed to strong evidence that pro-trade policies are closely linked to growth, which in turn attracts additional investment and trade.

"There are strong effects in both directions," he said. Dadush, the World Bank's Division Chief for International Economics, Analysis and Prospects, described 1995 as a watershed year for the "transition economies" of the former Soviet bloc.

"Most economies in transition—especially the early reformers such as Poland and the Czech Republic—have effectively turned the corner and are expected to be among the fastest-growing countries in the next 10 years," Dadush said.

He also noted that the Mexican peso crisis of December 1994 did not shake investors' confidence in developing markets.

"The news of 1995 is that despite the 'earthquake' of the Mexican financial crisis, the flow of private capital to developing countries was not interrupted, and in fact continues to increase," Dadush said.

He said that in 1995, developing countries (excluding the transition economies of Europe and Central Asia) are estimated to have grown at the "handsome rate" of 4.5 to 4.6 percent.

Other positive news in the World Bank report includes a preliminary estimate showing that for the first time since 1989, the income of individual Sub-Saharan Africans is growing.

Over the coming decade, growth in developing countries is projected to be markedly higher than in the past 15 years, but the outlook is most favorable for those that continue to reform and can best exploit the continued acceleration in global trade.

In that respect, the World Bank found "troubling disparities" among developing countries.

In 44 of the 93 countries studied, the ratio of trade to gross domestic product (GDP) actually fell over the past 10 years. Three-quarters of the increase in trade by developing countries was accounted for by just 10 countries: China, Mexico, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, India and the Philippines.

Moreover, while the developing countries' share of foreign direct investment (FDI) increased to 38 percent of the world's total, two-thirds of these flows went to just eight countries, while half received little or none.

Assad of Syria

The sphinx with many riddles

This is a game Israel and Syria have been playing on Lebanese soil for 25 years. Peres is Mike Tyson, Assad is Kasparov.

A CRISIS to Israel and a tragedy for Lebanon is, to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, another opportunity. Sitting in Damascus, he watches and waits as he has done before, while the Israelis blunder back into the Lebanese quagmire. Once again, the man his biographer called "the sphinx of Damascus" is centre stage.

The American secretary of state, the French foreign minister and the Israeli prime minister are knocking at his door. He will let them wait while he ponders the price he will accept for using his influence on events in Lebanon.

This is a game Israel and Syria have been playing on Lebanese soil for 25 years. Peres is Mike Tyson, Assad is Kasparov. If it were a boxing match of the kind the Likud want, Assad wouldn't stand a chance. But it isn't; this is chess by Assad's rules. Lebanese villagers die, Beirut is thrown back into wartime darkness and Israel is publicly humiliated.

Although Hizbollah fighters in South Lebanon have a legitimate cause, expelling Israeli forces from their homes, they could not escalate their attacks without Syrian approval.

Those negotiating an end to the carnage are making the pilgrimage to Damascus familiar to those who, a few years ago, wanted to release western hostages and expulsion of Carlos the Jackal.

Syria has not in its modern life known the stability Assad has given it.

Before he acceded to power in 1970, in what the French journalist Thierry Desjardins called "a gentle coup d'état" without a single shot fired, the country had 11 heads of state. From the time of independence from France in 1949, brought the army to power.

No one expected the peasant boy from the Alawite mountain, who had been an air force general and minister of defence during the debacle of Syria's 1967 war with Israel, to last. Yet he has survived longer than all his predecessors combined.

More over, he has outlasted his Soviet benefactors, made Lebanon into a Syrian sphere of influence and retained American goodwill after humiliating the United States by driving its Marines out of Beirut in 1985. These are significant achievements for any leader, particularly for one whose childhood ambition was to be a physician, but whose poverty forced him into the Homs Military Academy.

The French, whose Mandate over Syria ran from 1920 to 1946, had created an Alawite officer corps alien to the Sunni Muslim majority.

In the Homs academy during the 1950s, Assad and a classmate, Mustafa Tlass, joined a secret cell of the Ba'ath Party—the Socialist Renaissance Party that preached Arab unity. When Assad took power in 1970, he made Tlass his Minister of Defence, a post he still holds—one of many Sunni cabinet ministers Assad uses to prove his is not a minority. Tlass however has no real power under a president who delegates practically nothing. Despite doing almost everything himself, Assad manages to convince people—Syrian and foreign alike—that he does not know what is going on when things go wrong.

When Nizar Hindawi, a young Jordanian who was convicted of trying to blow up an El Al airliner in London, implicated Syrian air force intelligence officers in his confession, a British diplomat said: "There is no evidence to suggest Assad knew about the operation." Others made the same excuse for him when evidence connected a Syrian-based Palestinian group, Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to the Lockerbie bombing. When there are successes—hostage releases, the improvement in Syria's economy, the domination of Lebanon—Assad takes credit.

Assad's manipulation of events in Lebanon dates almost from his ascent to power, when he encouraged Palestinian commando groups to destabilize the Lebanese state.

When the Lebanese army moved against commandos of Yasser Arafat and others in 1973, Syria reacted by closing its borders to Lebanese trade. In 1976, Assad sent his army into Lebanon at the request of Lebanon's Christian president and its Christian militia leaders—to save them from the Palestinians he had pitted against them. Since the beginning, Assad has managed to run the war in Lebanon by proxy, occasionally intervening with his own forces.

He has not been above shelling Palestinian refugee camps, Muslim towns and Christian villages to maintain Syrian domination. Usually, however, he distances himself from the violence, allowing Lebanese and Palestinians to kill one.

Sometimes, they have gone too far, as Yasser

Arafat did when he sent Katyushas into northern Israel—after Israeli provocation—in 1982 and invited an Israeli response Syria could not control. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was almost Assad's undoing. Israel broke the unwritten agreement to leave Syrian forces alone—Attacking his army, forcing him to retreat from Beirut and destroying his air force Assad's failure in 1982 left his prestige in shreds and gave the Lebanese the confidence to sign an agreement with Israel—the 17 May accord of 1983, Assad waited.

Slowly, he helped Lebanese resistance groups to drive the Israelis and the American peace keepers out.

His agents undoubtedly killed the Israeli-appointed president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, and they certainly planted car bombs throughout Beirut.

He rebuilt his air force with Soviet help, and he upgraded his Saudi Bx with more accurate SS-21s. He made an alliance with Iran that gave Syria an estimated \$1 billion a day in free oil in the early 1980s. In return, he allowed Iran to assist the newly created Hizbollah in Lebanon.

In three years, Assad rebuilt his forces and helped to create such chaos in Lebanon that the Lebanese begged him to return to Beirut. He named the president and the prime minister, and he determines all Lebanese policy. Assad has, however, kept Hizbollah on a short leash. He allows them inaccurate Katyushas, but he will not give them longer-range rockets that could do real harm in Israel.

Some have pointed to Iran's role in Lebanon and the possibility that Iranian "mischief" via Hizbollah, for instance, could precipitate an unwanted confrontation with Israel or even spiral out of control within Syria itself. This was the lesson Assad learned in 1982, when the Palestinians thrust him into exactly that unwanted confrontation.

At home, the Syrian president has resisted challenges to his rule both subtly and ruthlessly. When the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood began attacks on Alawite officers in the early 1980s, he tried persuasion and arrests.



When they seized the city of Hama in February 1982, killing Ba'athist officials and calling for a Muslim uprising, his army took revenge. Hama is the premier Sunni Muslim city in Syria, home of the landlords who had held the Alawites in serfdom for generations. Some say 10,000 people died, others believe 30,000. In Hama whole neighborhoods are no longer there.

To discover how the president of Syria wishes to be commemorated after his death, walk through the narrow alleys of the old city of Damascus. Beyond its lavish souks and the magnificent Omayyad Mosque, the interested visitor will find an unmarked house.

Within lies the tomb of Saladin, the Muslim leader who expelled the Crusaders from Jerusalem. Assad has often compared himself to the pious warrior, and he has assumed some of the same characteristics: the patience with his enemies, his willingness to make short and unlikely alliances, his modes of life.

When Saladin died in 1193, he was so poor his friends raised the money to pay for his funeral. Assad also lives simply, famously remaining in a middle-class house in the city rather than move to the Lavish palace built at his direction a few years ago on a hill over the Syrian Capital. Saladin's judicious diplomacy, as well as his military skill, destroyed two centuries of European rule in the Arab East.

Assad sought to do the same with Israel in Palestine. Saladin left a dynasty that survived him in Damascus until 1260. Assad had hoped to pass power on to his oldest son, Basil, but he was killed in a car crash. The next son, Bashar, is unofficially said to be in line for the throne. So far, his father is saying nothing.

Daily Telegraph

Israel-PLO

Taba talks may prove a turning point

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

TABA, EGYPT — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which reached mutual recognition three years ago and have struggled since to fashion temporary accords, last Sunday opened a new stage of talks on their most intractable differences.

At issue for the first time, in a negotiating process that carefully left the toughest issues for last, is a daunting list of disputes at the heart of the hundred-year-old conflict between Arabs and Jews: whether Palestinians will form a sovereign state, where its borders will be drawn with Israel, what will become of West Bank Jewish settlements and millions of Palestinian refugees, how the two peoples will divide scarce water resources and—perhaps hardest of all—how they will resolve their competing claims to Jerusalem.

As they posed for reporters at this Red Sea resort, sipping mineral water, both sides described the gaps as wide and deep. But

they began the talks for a final peace settlement in an atmosphere of partnership, and they warned opponents of accommodation among the public of both sides, in the words of PLO delegation chief Mahmoud Abbas, "you belong to the past; you will lose, for we are determined to win."

That frank statement of alliance, echoed by Israeli delegation chief Uri Saviv, called attention to the strong bonds of dependence that link the two leaderships. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres spent much of last December overseeing the withdrawal of forces from the West Bank in an effort to shore up Yasser Arafat before the first popular Palestinian election the following month. Now it is Peres who faces his voters 29 May, and, as one Israeli official said speaking not for attribution, "It is Arafat's turn to help Peres, as long as he doesn't do it too bluntly."

Last week Arafat engineered a repeal of clauses in the PLO charter that claimed all of Israel as part of Palestine, a longstand-

ing source of anger and anxiety among Israeli Jews. Sunday his senior deputy, Abbas, avoided inflammatory statements of PLO goals in the three years of scheduled talks to come.

The opening of "permanent status" talks, envisioned as the final chapter of what the sides describe as their historic reconciliation, was largely symbolic. With Peres in the throes of a hard-fought campaign, negotiations are unlikely to start in earnest until Israeli voters make their choice and the winner forms a government in the summer.

Yet the mere commencement of bargaining was a victory of sorts. As recently as two months ago, a series of terrorist attacks in Israel killed 59 people and threw the Jewish state into angry skepticism at the prospects of peace. Peres imposed harsh sanctions and delayed the army's promised withdrawal from most of Hebron, increasing frustration in the Palestinian public.

Peres and Arafat, meeting face to face and acting through aides, have scripted a recovery

from what might have become a cycle of recrimination. Saviv said the two leaders are determined to "change the course of history" and predicted they "will prove wrong the skeptics who are hypnotized by conflict."

Palestinian and Israeli delegations began negotiating in 1991 but made no progress until they opened secret talks in Norway in 1993. The breakthrough came in September that year, when then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook Arafat's hand on the White House lawn and signed a "declaration of principles" that meant mutual recognition of national rights.

Two interim agreements signed since then, in May 1994 and September 1995, created a semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with many of the features of a sovereign state. But the new entity falls short of independence, and the status of 145 Jewish settlements in the West Bank is unresolved. Most difficult of all, because it touches the emotional heart of the dispute, is the Palestinian

claim to East Jerusalem as a political capital.

Abbas described that claim as among the "national aspirations" of the Palestinian people, a formulation couched to avoid a flat demand. Saviv made his rival statement in words chosen to leave a similar ambiguity. "For us, as you know, there is one issue that is eternal: Israel's united capital, Jerusalem," he said.

Both men negotiated every word of their public remarks. Saeb Erekat and Yoel Singer, the Palestinian-Israeli team that spent hundreds of hours on the fine details of previous accords, met all day over the draft speech texts to ensure that neither side fanned the flames of opposition in the other's public.

"It's the beginning of a new era in our peace process—the real negotiations," Erekat said. Everything until now, he said, was "appetizers."

There are indications that secret talks between Abbas and Israeli cabinet minister Yossi Beilin, held last winter and through this spring, have prepared the way for rapid progress on this new round of talks.

But Mahdi Abdel Hadi, a Palestinian academic who has advised Arafat's bargaining team, said no amount of cooperation could disguise the difficulty of the present phase of talks.

"The devil is always in the details, and the issues they are reaching now are the devil himself," he said.

US anxious for successful Iraqi Oil talks

By Judy Aita
USIA United Nations Correspondent

UNITED NATIONS—As the fourth round of the Iraq-UN "oil-for-food" talks began 6 May, US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said that the United States wants to see the negotiations succeed so the Iraqi people will begin receiving more food and medicine. Ironically, the talks resume just as the Security Council voted to continue sanctions on Iraq.

The talks began 6 May. Iraqi chief negotiator Ambassador Abdul-Amir Al-Anhawi arrived in New York from Paris where he heads the Iraqi delegation to UNESCO. The UN chief negotiator is Undersecretary General and legal counsel Hans Corell.

During the third round of meetings April 8 to 24, the United States and the United Kingdom made suggestions for extensive changes to the draft memorandum after Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali discussed the details with the two delegations. US officials said that the modifications were suggested to ensure that Iraq does not use the humanitarian exceptions to the wide-ranging embargo to circumvent the sanctions regime.

"We are very glad that this round is taking place and we look forward to its success," Albright said. "We believe that the talks have a good basis for progressing."

The talks are on how to implement Security Council resolution 986 which would allow Iraq to sell up to \$1,000 million of oil every 90 days under UN supervision to buy humanitarian supplies for Iraqis while the Gulf war sanctions remain in place.

Resolution 986 stipulates that the proceeds of the oil sales be deposited in a special account and distributed according to a set formula to the Compensation Fund dealing with claims

resulting from the invasion of Kuwait, the UN administration of the oil sales, the Special Commission overseeing the destruction of Iraqi weapons, and the remainder for the humanitarian aid with about \$150 million of that going to the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Seeking to stem criticism that the United States, along with the United Kingdom, suggested the changes in order to prevent the talks from succeeding, Albright said "perhaps, except for the Iraqi people themselves, there is no one who is more in-

terested in having 986 come out right than I, myself."

This has been the tightest, most important sanctions regime in the history of the United Nations. We are trying to make sure there is the biggest exception to this sanctions regime so that the people of Iraq are able to receive humanitarian assistance, make sure their conditions are improved," she said.

The Security Council also conducted its 31st review of Iraq's compliance with the cease-fire demands to determine whether to lift the oil embargo and other wide-ranging economic and military sanctions against Iraq. The council deter-

mined 6 May that there had not been significant progress in any area to make any changes in the sanctions regime. The sanctions will remain in place until Iraq accounts for Kuwaitis missing in action and all the property Iraq stolen from Kuwait during the war; halts its support for and practice of terrorism; destroys its weapons-of-mass destruction programs and accepts measures to ensure against their regeneration in the future; and compensates those damaged by the invasion of Kuwait.

Albright said that Iraq should abandon any plans to press for a complete lifting of sanctions instead of continuing the 986 talks.

After hearing the complaints from council members about Iraq's noncompliance with the Gulf war cease-fire demands, "these sanctions are on there for quite a long time because the Iraqis are so far away from meeting their commitments," she said.

British Ambassador Sir John Weston echoed Albright's assessment. "Anyone from the Iraqi side who would listen to the discussion would not have taken any comfort from it in respect to the sanctions regime on Iraq because everybody mentioned all the items from the various resolutions which remain unimplemented," Sir John said. "So long as that is the case the sanctions will remain."

"As for 986, we will push ahead with good will," the British ambassador said. "The chances of getting a successful agreement are, in fact, improved as a result of the fact that a number of members of the council...have made their views clear to the secretariat."



Noor Al Hussein Foundation
The National Music Conservatory
in cooperation with
Goethe Institut
presents
The German
Mandarin String Quartet
and Nora Niggeling
in concert

Saturday, 11 May 1996 - 8:00 p.m.
Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
In the program pieces by Beethoven, Zemlinski and Bruckner.
Ticket price: JD 10

Noor Al Hussein Foundation
The National Music Conservatory
in cooperation with
Marriott Hotel
presents
Brigham Young
Chamber Orchestra
(45 members)

Sunday, 12 May 1996 - 8:00 p.m.
Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
In the program pieces by Mozart, Copland, Ravel, Strauss and others.
Ticket Price: JD 10

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein
The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation
in cooperation with
UNICEF
presents
Meadows of Dreams
A Jordanian Grand Musical Play
on Children's Rights
based on "Mio, My Mio" a children's story by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren
Libretto Dr. Walid Self Music Kifah Fakhouri
Choreographer Inam Abdul Kharim Set Designs Kamel Hashim
Performances: Monday, 13 May, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 14 May, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 15 May, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 16 May, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Al Hasan Bin Talal Auditorium - University of Jordan
JD 7 for adults and JD 5 for children

Tickets available at:
- Al-Ahliya Superstore, tel. 688481
- Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Romero, tel. 644227
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Goethe Institut, tel. 641993
- Royal Cultural Center, tel. 661026
- Caffé Moka, tel. 856285
- Marriott Hotel, tel. 607607
- National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620
- Characters, tel. 07-927106
- Music Box, tel. 815745
- IMC Insurance Company Ltd. (JBA)

Clinton is the best friend Israel ever had in the Oval Office says Peres

The knowledgable Bill

By Carrie Nello Moya
US Star Correspondent

IN THE 1940s and '50s, southern blacks (poorly called "niggers") who migrated North often returned South noting that at least there they knew where society cast them whereas in the North they could never tell. Outwardly they were accepted but the proof was not to be found in the pudding.

During the months of March and April, many Arabs abroad—most specifically Palestinians and Lebanese—and much of the Arab-American community experienced these same feelings.

Clinton had promised so much.

At last there was to be an acceptable peace. And it would be just. It would not be like the years since 1948; it would not be a peace extended only on Israeli terms. It would not be like the peace-keeping experience of the UN Marines in Beirut sent as an unbiased force then directed to take sides, resulting in horrendous slaughter. No, Clinton would be different.

A knowledgeable Clinton had perceived that Palestinians had legitimate claims to the on-going saga.

Clinton would right wrongs, as much as was possible at this late date, and Palestinians would begin life anew.

But alas, 1996 is an election year. And Clinton has proved to be as willing as any of his predecessors to subordinate justice to gleaming votes.

Weeks ago, when the world was outraged at the round-the-clock bombing by Israeli planes on civilian villages and a UN outpost in Southern Lebanon, the US uncharacteristically did not veto the UN Security Council resolution demanding "unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon."

Yet not one step was made by the US to halt the bombing although the US exercises great control of Israeli military movement. When the Qana UN outpost was bombed, killing both civilians and UN peace-keeping personnel, international condemnation reached a peak, yet the US, as reported in most media, noted the Israelis were simply "retaliating against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah," the excuse used so frequently that, as Hitler stated, if one tells a lie often enough and long enough....

It is so very easy to forget—or to ignore—that the Hezbollah is in southern Lebanon, an area Israel claimed 18 years ago and self-declared to be its security zone.

Writer Norman Solomon, in his publication "Unreliable Sources: A Guide to Detecting Bias in News Media," notes that this reference to the Israeli "self-declared security zone" has



President BILL CLINTON

"All this followed the Saturday, April 27 US-brokered cease fire between high-tech fighter jet bombing by the Israelis and more conventional land-based missile bombing by the Hezbollah."

What was never acknowledged was that hundreds of civilians had been slaughtered after the peace gathering at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in March, a meeting which was supposed to have stopped the fighting at that time. But the bombing increased, not ceased.

Now Clinton has come down solidly on the side of the Israelis. This will garner the much needed Jewish vote.

Do not misunderstand, there is a large contingent of Israeli doves—many more so in Israel per se than found among the Jewish population in the US—which is both aware of and aggrieved by the historic injustice forced upon the Palestinians.

These persons, working jointly with their Palestinian cousins, are adamant in their feelings that the legitimacy of the Palestinians must be honored and that Israel must cease in its quest to reach the Euphrates or, presently, annex Southern Lebanon, as it annexed the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

But in an election year, both in Israel and the United States, their voices can not be heard over the cacophony of vote-crazed politicians.

In a recently published posthumous interview by Michael Kramer as quoted in *Time* Magazine, assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had noted that Peres, although sincere in his quest for peace, "...to prove that he's tough, might overreact in a way that's harmful."

This is precisely what led to non-stop bombing. So many had felt Rabin was the only person capable of leading the Israelis through peace negotiations that Peres, rather than wanting to appear to acquiesce into impotence, initiated air raids to please the hawks, hoping to force inequitable peace on the Palestinians. Clinton allowed the olive branch to wilt.

In the last few weeks, many respected Arab leaders have taken the attitude that it will be good if the rapidly anti-Arab Israeli Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu wins the 23 May election, and if Bob Dole is elected President in November. At least then the Arabs, like the negroes in the States in the 1940s and '50s, will know where they stand. ■

Russian security chief calls for postponing elections

Yeltsin maybe in for more than a surprise

By Richard Boudreaux
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MOSCOW—President Boris N. Yeltsin's powerful security chief called last week for postponement of the 16 June presidential elections, saying Russia's electorate is too polarized to accept the results without bloodshed.

The advice by Gen. Alexander V. Korzhakov was the first time a Kremlin official publicly urged Yeltsin, Russia's first freely elected leader, to take undemocratic steps to prevent a Communist return to power.

Korzhakov made his appeal in separate interviews with Russia's Interfax news agency and *The Observer*, a British newspaper, after one of the busiest weeks of political intrigue since Yeltsin entered the race on 15 February as an underdog behind the Communist Party leader, Gennady A. Zyuganov.

"If we have the elections, there is no way of avoiding a fight," the general was quoted as saying. "If Yeltsin wins, the radical opposition will rush into the streets claiming the results were falsified, and there will be unrest. If Zyuganov wins, even if he wants to take a centrist line, the same people won't let him and they'll scream."

"It is inadmissible that Russians fight against Russians again," he added.

Korzhakov concluded that more time is needed for voters to "think calmly and reach a mature conclusion" about their choice.

The chief presidential spokesman and the head of Russia's independent Central Election Commission reacted promptly, insisting that voting will be held on schedule.

But Korzhakov is one of the two men closest to Yeltsin, and his advice has carried the day on matters ranging from oil export policy to the Kremlin's decision to declare war on separatists in Chechnya. Few in Moscow believe he would make such a statement, even one cast as a personal opinion, without a go-ahead from the boss.

Yeltsin has been gaining on Zyuganov in most voter surveys. One taken by Russia's Gallup affiliate and aired Sunday night by the news program *Itogi* showed the two men even, each polling 28 percent with the 10 other candidates in single digits.

A few polls, however, show Yeltsin still far behind his Communist rival.

The idea to delay the election has been floated often in recent weeks by lower-ranking Kremlin aides who spoke on condition of anonymity. Under the 1993 constitution he drafted himself, Yeltsin could do so

only by declaring a state of emergency on grounds that the country's stability is under threat.

Yevgeny Kisilev, the anchor on *Itogi*, called the statements by the usually reclusive security chief "a clearly planned action" and "a desperate move" by the Kremlin.

Other analysts said it was only the latest Kremlin ploy aimed at stalling Yeltsin's rivals with talk of bloodshed and at shaking up the race in his favor.

The intrigue appears to date to 26 April, when 13 millionaires and industrialists with close ties to the Kremlin issued an unusual manifesto, urging Yeltsin, Zyuganov and other political forces to make "serious compromises" to keep the election from degenerating into civil war.

Although the millionaires didn't say what compro-

mises they had in mind, two Kremlin officials embraced their manifesto as a reasonable idea and said Yeltsin would soon hold talks with Communist leaders, possibly to offer them positions in a reshuffled Cabinet.

Zyuganov on Sunday expressed willingness to meet with Yeltsin, but he ruled out dropping his candidacy and said delaying the election would be "not a compromise but a rude violation of the constitution and law."

Yeltsin has met separately with the strongest of the other candidates, retired army Gen.

Alexander I. Lebed and free-market economist Grigory A. Yavlinsky. The two men are a threat to the president because they are talking of uniting, possibly with others, into a "third force" that might displace Yeltsin as Zyuganov's most serious rival.

Russian news media have speculated that Yeltsin will try to tempt Lebed, Yavlinsky or both out of the race with a high government post. But no such deal was announced after either meeting, and it was not clear what, if anything, was offered. ■



"See what happens when my doctors order me to lose weight?"

Reporters sans Frontieres

The right to inform and be informed

PRESS FREEDOM is one of the pillars of democracy. On 3 May, International Press Freedom Day, Reporters Sans Frontieres publishes its seventh Annual Report on freedom of the press in the world.

Did press freedom make any progress in 1995? It is not possible to give a satisfactory answer to this. There are no precise parameters against which to measure the ebb and flow of press freedom around the world.

It is true that the number of journalists killed in 1995 was less than half the previous year's toll (51 killed in 1995 against 103 in 1994) and is similar to previous years (61 journalists killed in 1992 and 59 in 1993). But the difference corresponds to the exceptional number of journalists killed in Rwanda during the April-July 1994 genocide: at least 49.

And although the number of deaths has dropped, their geographical distribution has remained remarkably stable. This year, three-quarters of the journalists killed met their deaths in Africa, mainly in Algeria. Fifty-five Algerian journalists have died in the struggle for the right to tell people what is going on in a country in the grip of civil war. Before being murdered and decapitated, Hamid Mahout, a journalist with the French-language daily *Liberte*, was tortured. His head was displayed on a stake near his home in the suburbs of Algiers. In an editorial published on 3 October and headlined "Peace, where are you?" Omar Jourjail, editor in chief of *El Khabar*, described the despair of Algerians in the face of the hatred and violence rocking the country. Later that day, he was shot five times in the head outside the newspaper offices.

The number of journalists jailed varies between 100 and 150, most of them in Asia (19 prisoners in China, seven in Burma, five in Vietnam), followed by Africa (15 in Ethiopia, five in Nigeria, four in Côte d'Ivoire) and the Arab world (eight in Syria, two in Algeria, two in Tunisia). Freedom of information is still nonexistent in China. The authorities increasingly use the draconian laws on state secrets to silence dissidents, and journalists in particular. Only a very few still take the risk of trying to provide fair and objective

news coverage: 19 have already sacrificed their personal freedom to this principle.

During 1995, the least 386 journalists were imprisoned worldwide, including 127 in Europe (108 in Turkey alone), 114 in sub-Saharan Africa, 64 in North Africa and the Middle East, 53 in Asia and 28 in the Americas (including 19 in Peru).

Matters are not improving, because since January 10 journalists have been killed (seven of them in Algeria) and at least 104 were still in jail on 1 April. Reporters Sans Frontieres calls for the immediate and unconditional release of 69 of them and a fair trial for the rest.

New forms of repression

The subordination of justice to political interests helps to foster a tradition of impunity. It is not merely that various forms of "ordinary" harassment (administrative pressure, seizure of newspapers, arrests) do not result in the slightest legal penalty. What is even more serious is that the only consequence of killings and kidnapping of journalists is, at best, the opening of inquiries that never end in the culprits being identified.

By deciding to shoot dead respected journalists such as Vladislav Listyev, in Russia, or Muhiddin Olimpur, in Tajikistan, the killers were making it clear to other members of the profession that nothing—not even their reputation—could protect them. The message rings out loud and clear when the killers and those who hire them get away scot-free. Despite the indignation of many people calling for them to be arrested and punished, the murders of Listyev and Olimpur are still at liberty.

Several other incidents during 1995 serve as a reminder that even in Western democracies, the protection of press freedom requires vigilance and effort. On 27 March 1996, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of British journalist William Goodwin,

who had been sentenced in the United Kingdom for refusing to reveal his sources. In June the Spanish daily *El Mundo* revealed a phone-tapping scandal: the Spanish secret service, the Higher Center for Defence Information, had been listening in on the professional and private phone calls of several of the newspaper's journalists.

Violence from right-wing extremists in France, Germany and Austria and nationalist movements in the Spanish Basque country and Corsica is another obstacle to the work of the press. On 6 April 1995 Raymond Friedl was killed by mistake in an attack aimed at Wolfgang Putscheller, a journalist with the Austrian daily *Der Standard* known for his investigative reporting and the victim of an assault by the police in 1994. On 9 June 1995 a secretary at the private German TV channel Pro 7 was injured when she opened a letter-bomb believed to have been sent by an extreme-right group.

On 23 September a cameraman with a Paris local TV channel was assaulted by National Front militants. On 26 January 1996 the daily *El Correo Espanol* printed a leaflet believed to come from the Basque separatist movement ETA and calling for an "armed intervention" against media managers. On 8 March the Paris home of *Libération* journalist who had been investigating Corsican independence movements was machine-gunned.

Reporters Sans Frontieres International Secretariat, with a staff of about 20, coordinates a network of 125 local correspondents all over the world. Using information provided by them and by the investigation and assistance missions carried out in the most sensitive countries (about 50 every year), RSF can respond straight away to the most serious infringements of press freedom and alert public opinion. It writes protest letters (about 380 in 1995), issues press releases, organizes media campaigns and publishes books and magazines. Governments are forced to take account of international public opinion.

However, over the past five years, Reporters Sans Frontieres has found it has to intervene in new ways to keep up with the way threats to press freedom are developing. At first it restricted itself to condemning infringements. But

from 1993-94, a substantial share of its available resources were devoted to providing emergency aid, especially in the former Yugoslavia, Algeria and East Africa. In 1994-95, the organization started legal proceedings in international courts against several journalists who incited ethnic hatred. Some of these cases have fallen through; others are still awaiting verdicts. In any event, the dissuasive effect of legal proceedings seems significant on 18 March when the National Communications Council in Burundi suspended six extremists newspapers against which Reporters Sans Frontieres had been calling for sanctions for more than a year.

"There is no freedom without press freedom," the phrase is now well known, but the worldwide struggle to those who work to safeguard this "barometer of public freedoms" all too often goes unrecognized. This report pays tribute to those journalists and other media employees who day in, day out, defend their rights to inform and our right to be informed.

The French, English and Spanish of the report are available from the organization headquarters. ■

UNESCO report focuses on global challenges

PARIS—Biodiversity, environmental degradation, ethics and recent developments in information technology are among the contemporary issues examined, in UNESCO's World Science Report 1996

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor presented the second report, which reviews and updates the state of science and technology throughout the world, to the Organization's Executive Board. The first UNESCO World Science Report was released in 1994.

"Science and technology is an activity whose potential needs to be developed to the full to meet the global challenges of sustainable human development," Mr Mayor says in the report's preface. "This, in turn, calls for a better sharing of scientific knowledge, across society and between nations, and a sustained commitment to science on the part of society as a whole—including ordinary citizens as well as politicians and scientists themselves."

The 356-page book, written by an international team of biologists, chemists, physicists, engineers, economists and other experts, is divided into three sections. Part one is a global snapshot of the rapid changes taking place in science. Many industrialized nations such as the United States and Canada are grappling with the need to rethink their scientific and technological priorities as they confront economic decline, shrinking research budgets and rising demands for rapid progress in research. Governments are realizing that they need to strengthen international collaboration in big science projects if they are to tackle such problems as AIDS, global warming, energy research or food production.

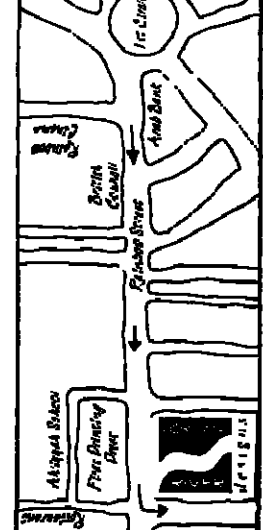
Former Soviet bloc countries are attempting to juggle the building of new scientific infrastructures while keeping the useful features of the old. However, as the report shows, massive cuts in defence research spending are stripping possible conversion to civil aviation, space and computing. Thus, as many countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States dismantle their military-industrial complexes, they are cutting the ties between research and commerce that are needed for economic and social revival.

More than 140 figures, tables and charts illustrate the World Science Report 1996, a source for specialists, policy-makers and the general public. It is sold for \$45 or 220 FF by UNESCO Publishing, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. ■

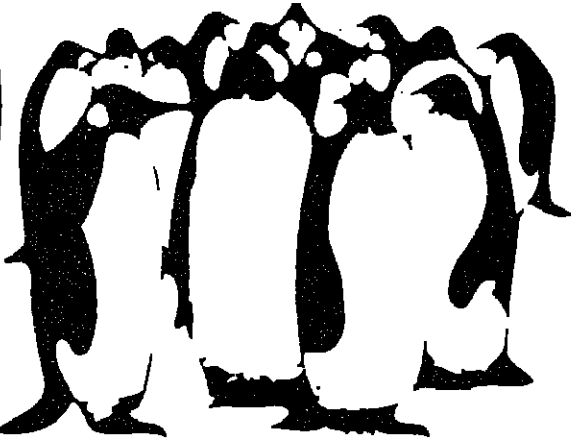


At JRD our clients are getting younger!

Under The Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Jordan River Designs presents: "NEW BEGINNINGS" Introducing our baby line along with our new Spring collection. At JRD showroom, Jabel Amman, 1st Circle. 9-23 May, 1996, from 9.00 am - 9.00 pm. Tel. 613081-2



AROUND TOWN

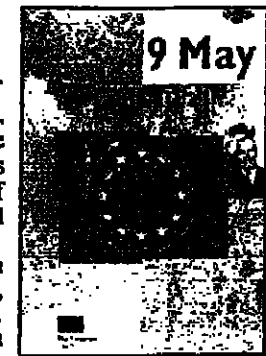


Europe Day celebrates today 9th May

Today, Thursday 9 May the European Union celebrates 'Europe Day'. In Paris, on 9 May 1950, with the threat of a third war engulfing Europe, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman declared: "World peace cannot be safeguarded without creative efforts equal to the dangers which exist to world peace." He called for the pooling together of resources and set up a new high authority to link France, Germany, and the other countries to create a European Federation to preserve peace.

What he proposed was the creation of a supranational, European institution, charged with the management of the steel and coal industry, the very sector which was, at that time, the basis of all military power. The countries which he called upon had almost destroyed each other in a conflict which left after it a sense of material and moral desolation, full of hatred, prejudice and spite. Everything, therefore, began that day, May 9 became the origin of the European construction. And that is why European leaders decided at the Milan Summit in 1985 to celebrate the 9th of May as 'Europe Day' which marks the anniversary of the famous "Schuman Declaration."

It is now 46 years since Robert Schuman put forward his plan and the declaration has lost none of its significance.



THE FAR SIDE

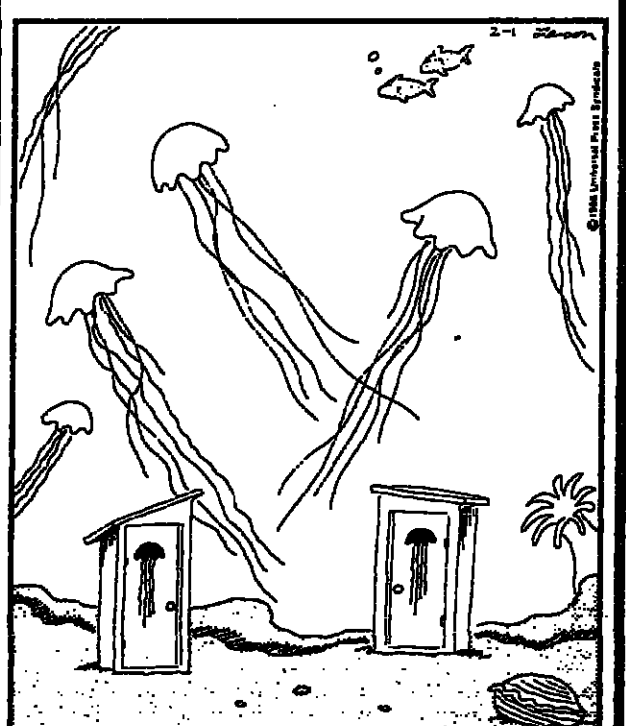
By GARY LARSON



"Hey... this could be the chief."



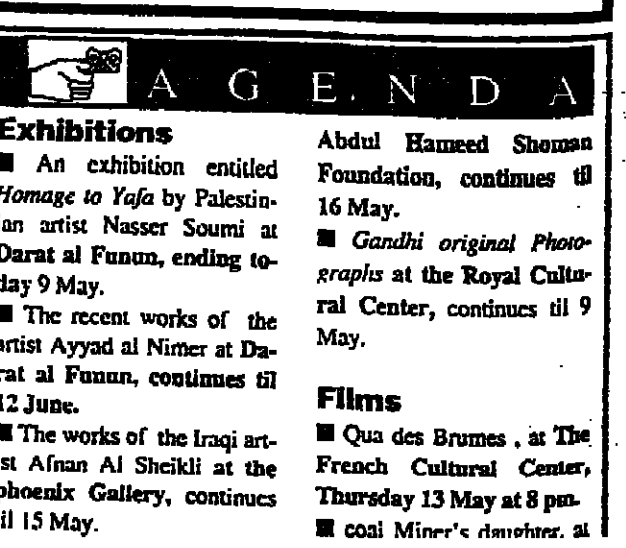
Inside tours of Acme Fake Vomit Inc.



Only they know the difference.



Tomorrow, they would be mortal enemies. But on the eve of the great hunt, feelings were put aside for the traditional Mammoth Dance.



Exhibitions

- An exhibition entitled *Homage to Yafa* by Palestinian artist Nasser Soumi at Darat al Funun, ending today 9 May.
- The recent works of the artist Ayyad al Nimer at Darat al Funun, continues till 12 June.
- The works of the Iraqi artist Afnan Al Sheikhli at the phoenix Gallery, continues till 15 May.

Films

- Qua des Brumes, at The French Cultural Center, Thursday 13 May at 8 pm.
- coal Miner's daughter, at

Hard work pays off

by Eyad Ammari
Special to the Star

P "WE HAVE 90 percent self-sufficiency paying wages to over 850 needy women and having helped over 1600 since the beginning of the project."

Hana Mitri Shahin, the director of Jordan River Designs, told *The Star*, commenting on the expenditures of the non-profit society, JRD currently falls under the umbrella of Jordan River for Development Projects (JRDP) after it was transferred from Save the Children in January this year.

Under the presidency of HRH Princess Rania Al Abdullah, the objectives of JRDP seek to "improve the financial, cultural, health, social, educational, technical skills and the well being of the community at large." JRD builds on the "traditional skills" of hand-embroidery and fashion accessories reproducing patterns and designs on quilts, cushions, wall hangings, among other items.

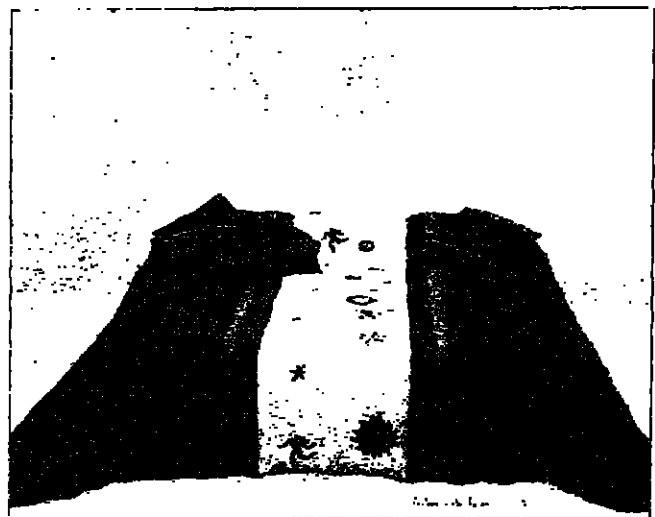
Under the Patronage of HM Queen Noor, JRD is holding an exhibition entitled "New Beginnings" starting this Thursday, 9 May. The exhibition is at JRD's main show-room in Jabal Amman, and lasts till 23 May.

The name reflects the new Baby Line series the society is producing along with its traditional displays of embroidered

tapestries, shirts, lamp shades, quilts, handbags, packaged food, olive oil soap, picture frames, wallets and dolls. Most of the items are made at two community centers in Jabal Al Nabeef and Al Mahatta.

"Also some women take their work and designs home and bring the finished works to one of our centers when they're done. This helps them to be at home where they're needed while working on providing more for themselves," said Nada Hellway, the administration assistant at JRD.

Jordan River Designs was established in 1987 by Save the Children (SC) to assist Palestinian refugee women in the two areas mentioned above. In 1994, JRD invested in buying a showroom, which is currently its main outlet. In the past three years, the society started targeting export markets working in cooperation with the Jordan Export Develop-



ment and Commercial Centers Cooperation (JE DCO) and Jordan Designs and Trade Centers (JDTCC).

The success of JRD was exhibited by an impact report made in December 1993. The report concluded that the "participants' wages constitute approximately one third of the household income. The supplemental income is spent on food, clothing and household items, which they might not otherwise be able to buy if they were not working with JRD."

Unity and peace highlight Cypriot visit to ICS

By Julia Reinhold
Special to the Star

Fourteen boys and girls from the Heritage School in Limassol, arrived at Queen Alia International Airport to spend a week with pupils, staff and families from the International Community School (ICS) in Amman.

The children from Cyprus, all aged between 10 and 11 years old, raised most of the money for the trip themselves, enabling them to enjoy this wonderful experience. Mr David Austin, head of the Junior Department at the Heritage School, hopes that this trip will promote understanding of Jordanian culture while living with families of different backgrounds and nationalities.

"It will give the children a balanced perspective of the varied nationalities within the ICS school. The world today has a need to foster peaceful ideas into its young people, wherever and whenever it is possible. The Heritage School, like the ICS, is an International School with some 20 nationalities. It seeks to develop the children's skills in understanding the diversity of cultures. These values may be built on giving the children useful skills in problem-solving and mediation. Our children will be



Mrs Bataineh, head teacher at ICS, introduces children arriving from Cyprus to their host families

Ambassadors for Cyprus, taking with them books, tapes, videos, photographs, food delicacies, costumes and a national dancing group. Mr Austin assured Mrs Bataineh, Head teacher at ICS.

The ICS children involved in this week's activities, are from Junior 3 & 4 (9-11 year olds). The total number of children concerned with this cultural excursion is 39, and among them there are 17 nationalities. Assembly was buzzing with excited children. Everyone sang "Peace starts with me," a hymn which inspired the children to compose poems on the subject of "peace". The Cyprus

trails and learning about all the flora and fauna which is so unique there. Dana Village will also be visited. The children return to Amman tomorrow Friday night, and on Saturday there will be a concert and farewell barbecue at ICS, before the children and teachers return to Cyprus late that evening.

Children from both schools will read poetry on Peace. The Cyprus children will dance local Cypriot dances and ICS children will give a fencing and gymnastics display. Songs from ICS' recent and successful musical production "Blast off" will get everyone swinging and this should be a great finale to a really fabulous week.

ICS children will travel to Cyprus next year to enjoy an equally rewarding time there, learning all about the island. This is a truly excellent way for children to grasp and retain knowledge through actual experience, without the children really realizing that they are not only having fun but learning one of life's most precious lessons: "to live and learn in peace and harmony with one's fellow man."

JORDAN RALLY

Jordan's rally gears up for great expectations

RACING ENTHUSIASTS are set for a thrilling performance next week. Under the patronage of HRH Prince Faisal, Jordan's International Rally will take place between 16-17 May. The rally is organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan in cooperation with Forte Grand Hotel. Drivers from 12 Arab and foreign countries is participating. The tournament is expected to witness a strong competition between renowned racing drivers like Abdullah Ba Khasshab (Saudi Arabia) and Muhammad Bin Sulayem (UAE). The two are former champions of past Jordanian rallies.

The winners of the rally this year will participate in the Middle East Championship, of which the first round was won by Muhammad Bin Sulayem.

Jordan participants have the chance and potential to prove that they can compete effectively with other drivers in the rally. We have racers like Ahmed Al Daoud, Bashar Al Bustami and Marouf Abu Samra who all won top positions in previous rallies in Jordan. The new cars they recently acquired promise to be very fruitful.

This year's competition will not be exclusive to men only as two British female drivers are joining the race. An organizing committee has already been formed in preparations for this important event. The eight-member committee is chaired by Hassan Ala' Al Din.

The Federation Internationale de L'Automobile (FIA) has appointed John Quenby as an observer for this rally. He is the chief executive of the Royal Automobile Club of Great Britain and responsible for all forms of motor sport in Great Britain.

Baladna hosts permanent exhibit

A permanent Arab art exhibition was just opened in the Baladna Art Gallery in the Wasfi Al Tal Street. Taking part is 22 female Arab artists from seven Arab countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Syria, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia. Works exhibited are combinations of sculpture and painting reflecting the modern artistic trends and styles.

The exhibition will hold a workshop including lectures and slides to throw a light on the contribution of artists to the artistic movements in their countries.

This exhibition comes as Baladna gallery opened its second gallery in Wasfi Al Tal street. The new center is highly equipped to serve as a permanent, professional one for artistic activities related to visual art.

Since it was established five years ago, Baladna held about 50 personal and group exhibitions for Arab and Jordanian artists.



lished five years ago, Baladna held about 50 personal and group exhibitions for Arab and Jordanian artists.

SKAL seeks understanding through tourism

SKAL club of Amman will be hosting at the Regency Palace Hotel, Amman the mid-year International SKAL councilors' meeting between 10-12 May. SKAL is the only organization which brings the tourism industry together, representing the industry's managers and executives. SKALeagues meet at local, national and international level in a friendly environment to discuss subjects of common interest.

SKAL's objectives is to develop friendship and common purposes among members of the tourism industry and to promote mutual understanding and foster goodwill between the people's of the world.

The idea, conceived in Paris in 1932 by travel trade managers who were on a Scandinavian educational tour, became a reality in 1934. SKAL was formed through the Association Internationale de Clubs SKAL (A.I.C.S.) in Paris. Its



Mr Francesco Costa, president of SKAL International



Mr Noll Ter Horst, president of the International SKAL Council

SKAL.

Today, it has more than 25,000 members in over 600 Clubs in 80-countries. Most SKAL activities take place within the clubs but the movement also has a National and Area Committees with its own A.I.C.S. (SKAL International) Secretariat in Torremolinos, Spain.

SKAL is managed by nine-member Executive Committee, elected by Club delegates who meet at the SKAL's

offering first-hand opportunity of observing the potential of the travel business in other countries.

SKAL is apolitical and does not discriminate on ground of sex, age, religion, politics or social standing. It also supports charities.

The SKAL club of Amman was founded in 1966. Its first president was Mr Tewfik Nazzal. Today, it has 128 members and its current president is Mr Samir Swalha.

Over a 100 people from 56 countries will be attending this important meeting which will be headed by both Mr Francesco Costa, president of SKAL International and Mr Noll Ter Horst, president of the International SKAL Council.

Since the participants have started arriving in Amman a week or so before the meeting, the SKAL Club of Amman has set up a comprehensive program allowing the participants to visit Jordan's

OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

Turino enjoyed a busy and very successful time through the holidays. Our great new menu at Turino Restaurant has proved extremely popular and by word of mouth we have welcomed many new friends to Turino. In fact, a real international feeling has been created with Japanese, Australian, Italian, South African and Indian guests dining with us along with some local well-known personalities.

There has been a fantastic response to our 3 special line menus attracting many people some of whom have come back specifically to sample the after Carte menu.

The walls of our newest outlet Cheers Upstairs, have been resonating with the beat of an extremely talented DJ who has been providing regular pop & dance music to the delight of the late evening crowd.

The holiday season brought many families and couples to Cheers Upstairs where they enjoyed the same famous Cheers menu as our downstairs Elite Cafe but in a slightly softer atmosphere. We hope that many of them will make Cheers Upstairs their favourite venue for a family lunch or dinner.

FOR THE VISITOR TO JORDAN, TURINO RESTAURANT IS TUCKED AROUND THE MAIN SQUARE OF SWEIFYEH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF 6TH CIRCLE.

Try Turino. Do call. It really is worth it.

Turino All Suites Hotel, Sweifyeh 6th Circle, Amman

MAY 1996
A special section of
fresh perspectives
global issues prepared
The Star

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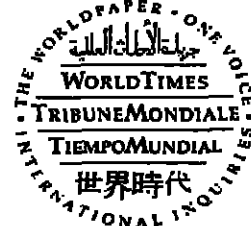
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THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



A centuries-old minority complex gives way in Malaysia and Indonesia

Rulers now burnish their Muslim credentials

By Peter Carey

A MAJORITY RELIGION with a minority complex" was how Dutch sociologist Wim Wertheim once characterized the place of Islam in post-independence Indonesia. His pithy summation captured the paradox of a religion claiming the allegiance (in 1990) of over 87 percent of its 190 million-strong population in a country which is by far the largest Muslim community in the world.

Today this community may be taking steps, if not strides, towards shedding this minority complex. The advent of the Internet has given Islamic intellectuals a relatively censor-proof way of examining their religion and its political potential. This has major implications for Indonesia, accelerating a process whereby the traditionally moderate Muslim majority is beginning to examine its ambivalent relationship with the secular state and its leaders.

Although the memory of Islamic participation in regional revolts between 1948 and 1965 continues to color the attitudes of Indonesian army officers and senior figures in Suharto's "New Order" government—including the president himself—Indonesian Islam has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis during the past two decades, particularly amongst the educated urban youth. These have be-

gun to look increasingly to their faith as an alternative to the heavily circumscribed arena of national politics.

Nowhere is this more evident than on university campuses, where the government's "depoliticization" campaigns since the late 1970s have ensured the atrophy of traditional student politics. As one graduate of the Bandung Institute of Technology, a 1970s political activist, put it, "...the student center [is] dead. All activity is now funneled to the mosque. Young people need an outlet for their political aspirations and they will find it where they can.

Along with political engagement, has come a new interest amongst Indonesian professionals and members of the burgeoning middle class (some eight million of Indonesia's 190-million population have annual per capita incomes of US\$3,000 or more, thus permitting them a consumer life style) in Islam as a religion which can provide for their spiritual needs in the context of a rapidly evolving modern society. To be a good Muslim is now very mainstream. In the words of Umar Juoro of the Center for Infor-

mation and Development Studies, a think-tank close to modernist Muslim leaders, "it is now very acceptable within the elite to study the Koran and Islamic theology. Islam is no longer seen as a backward religion." The communications revolution has certainly helped here. Indonesia boasts more privately-owned satellite dish receivers than any other ASEAN country, there is a brisk trade in personal computers (and pirated software) and the Internet has opened possibilities of communication with the wider Islamic world undreamt of a decade ago.

These developments have forced the New Order leadership to reassess their political relationship with the Indonesian Muslim community. The willingness of Islamic groups, including mass organizations like Abdurrahman Wahid's Nahdlatul Ulama (with an estimated 20 million mem-

bers) and the one legal political party, the United Development Party (Partai Persatuan Pembangunan or PPP), to accept the government's 1984 law requiring all political and social organizations to adopt the national ideology—Pancasila—as their sole ideological basis, has clearly been important here.

The advent of the Internet has given Islamic intellectuals a relatively censor-proof way of examining their religion and its political potential

For the first time since independence, the government no longer has to fear the public blandishments of rival ideologies, particularly at the five-yearly general elections, the New Order's "feasts of democracy."

The Suharto regime also undertook several initiatives in the late 1980s aimed at wooing this new Muslim middle class. Some of these concessions were symbolic, such as the easing of restrictions on the wearing of the jilbab female headscarf in public schools and the recognition of the State of Palestine. Others had more substance, such as the expansion of the national curriculum to include

more Islamic elements, and the granting of greater authority accorded the Islamic *sharia* courts.

At the same time, President Suharto to burnish his own Muslim credentials by making a well-publicized family pilgrimage to Mecca in 1991, adopting a more overt Muslim lifestyle. But it was Suharto's strong sponsorship of the Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals (Ikatan Cendekiawan Muslimin Indonesia or ICMI), founded in late 1990, which was the most important and controversial development in this process of regime wooing of the Muslim middle class.

Chaired by Suharto's most loyal protégé, Minister for Research and Technology, B.J. Habibie, ICMI has a very diverse membership, ranging from senior bureaucrats to highly critical non-governmental Muslim leaders. Although it was established as a sounding board for Muslim political opinion—its stated goals are to "unify" Indonesian Muslims and "improve their economic well-being" as well as ensuring that Islamic values are reflected in government policy—it has also helped to formulate and develop Muslim views, principally through its own newspaper, *Republika*, and its Center for Information and Development Studies think-tank.

The reasons for ICMI's establish-
► MUSLIM CREDENTIALS PAGE 2

Statistical Muslims

EVEN TODAY, a majority of Indonesians are content to regard Islam as the nation's principal religion, but are not keen to make it a central feature of the political system. For this reason Indonesian Islam has for long been a more benign and moderate presence than in many middle Eastern countries.

For most of these "statistical" Muslims, represented most heavily in the populous central and eastern parts of Java, Islam is more of a legal requirement than a matter of deep religious conviction. Since 1966, when Suharto's "New Order" Government came to power, all Indonesians have had to choose from one of five officially tolerated religions (Islam, Catholicism, Protestantism, Hinduism and Buddhism). Now those who might, in an earlier period, have claimed adherence to mystical beliefs or no religion at all, now show up in official statistics as "Muslims."

The fact that the two principal Islamic parties polled no more than 40 percent of the vote in the 1955 elections, the last genuinely free elections in Indonesia's post-independence history, is perhaps an indication of the real strength of the formal Islamic constituency in Indonesia.

—Peter Carey

'A wobbly state' Feudal Pakistan has much to learn

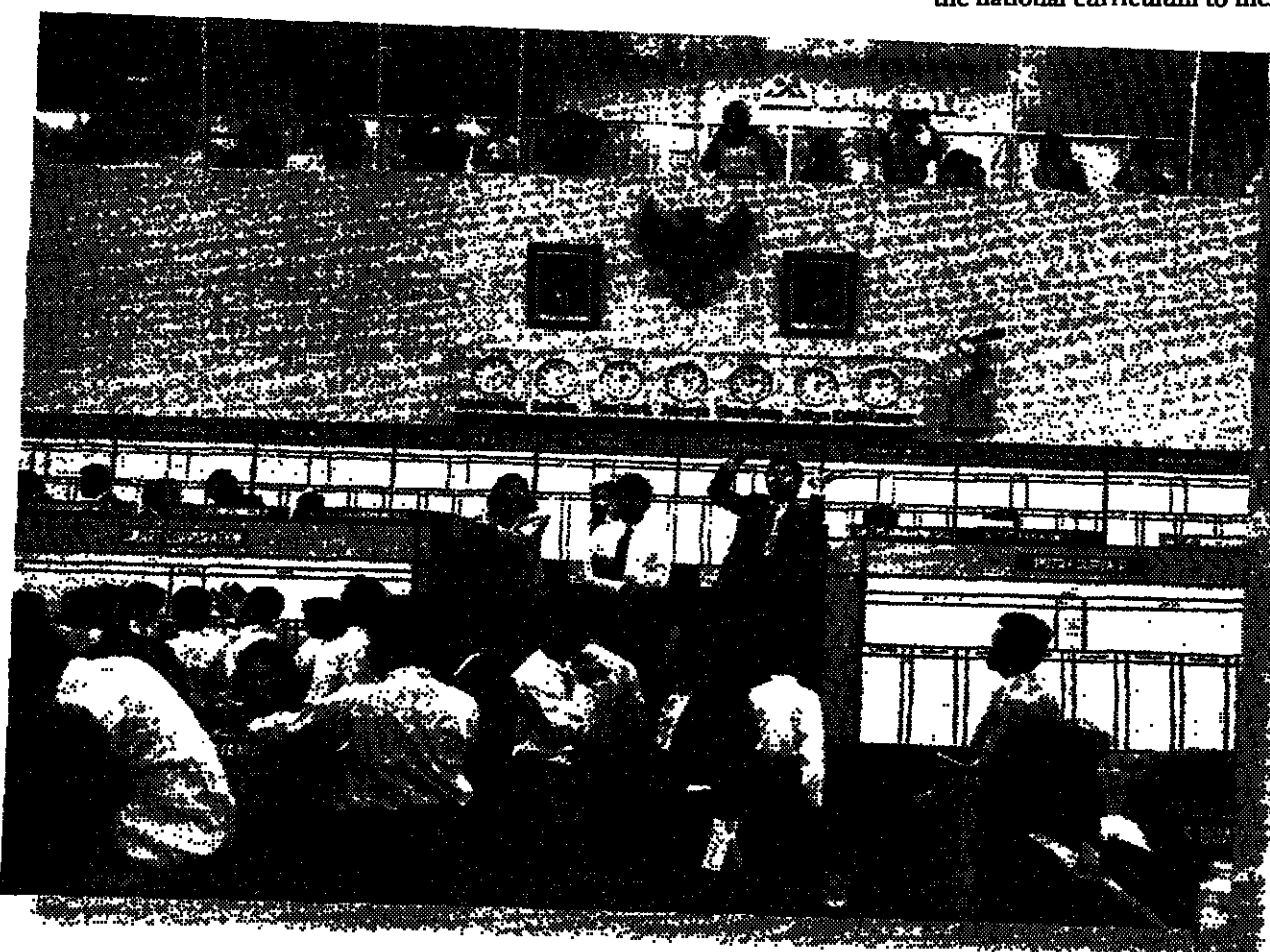
By Humayun Gauhar

UNTIL 1965, MOST Pakistanis were only vaguely aware of "Malaya," as it was called prior to 1963. They knew where it was, that like their own country it had been a British colony, that it had won independence ten years after them, and there was a certain degree of religious affinity in that Malaya was also a Muslim country.

Indonesia was different. Before 1971 and the secession of East Pakistan to become Bangladesh, Pakistan was the largest Muslim country in the world. Indonesia was second. Its flamboyant liberation leader and president, Sukarno, and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan, were friends, as were their foreign ministers at the time, Adam Malik and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This awareness and friendship crystallized during and after 1965.

A watershed year
1965 was a watershed year in Pakistan's relationship with these two countries, because it was in September of that year that the 17-day war with India took place. Pakistan asked its friends to stand up and be counted. Malaysia, as it was now called, failed in Pakistan's eyes to extend the kind of support and sympathy that the nation was looking for. It was then that in anger and frustration, Z.A. Bhutto, foreign minister of the largest Muslim state, referred to Malaysia as "that wobbly state..." in the UN Security Council.

Times have changed. Pakistan is no longer the largest Muslim country. Indonesia and Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) have larger Muslim populations. Even Hindu India, from which Pakistan was carved out, has more Muslims now. In its 49-year existence, Pakistan has suffered military rule three times, for a total of 24 years, had three constitutions, fought three wars



Far from the turbulent fundamentalism that roils the Middle East, Islam is developing a new center of bourgeoisie gravity. The rising Muslim middle classes of Indonesia and Malaysia are proving that the Koran can co-exist with capitalism

with India and has seen its majority wing, East Bengal, secede. Today it is riven by political instability and acute economic mismanagement.

On the other hand, the "wobbly state of Malaysia" is wobbly no more. Under prime minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, it has emerged as one of Asia's economic "Tigers."

Pakistanis now have acquired a grudging admiration for Malaysia. By the 1980s, there was a new confidence about the country, not least because of Mahathir's much criticized policies that allowed the Muslim Malays to break the Chinese monopoly on business. Indeed, it was Mahathir's forward-looking, urban attitude, which set him apart.

Many Third World countries, like Pakistan, are dominated by feudal rulers, who have captured both the political process and the economy. They bring their attitudes with them. To keep their hold on power they have to keep their people uneducated and unaware of their rights. Feudal rulers want people to be hungry so that they remain dependent on them.

By contrast, an urbanite wants people to be educated and well-off so they have purchasing power and his or her business will prosper. This is the key,

and somehow Mahathir understood that.

Taking the dictatorial route

Indonesia, on the other hand, went out of its way to side with Pakistan during the 1965 war. Our people never forgot that—Sukarno became a hero and squares and roads were named after him. Even after Sukarno, with Suharto, the friendship continued. Like Malaysia, Indonesia too continued to develop, though it took the dictatorial route and was a late starter.

Indonesia has more in common with Pakistan than Malaysia. It has a large, mostly Muslim population. It too has suffered dictatorship. And it too has been a victim of corruption. But the essential difference is that Indonesia's corruption never crossed the line to outright looting and plundering as it now has in Pakistan.

Over the last decade and a half, an educated, prosperous and modern Muslim middle class has emerged in Malaysia and Indonesia. Most importantly, it is an urban middle class, unfettered by the outdated feudal attitudes. They have access to data, information and technology. They have already started creating their own information and contributing to the world's pool of knowledge.

What effect will this have on the other

Muslim countries? The Muslim countries are treated as a bloc by the West, which after the fall of Soviet communism has now come to look upon resurgent Islam as the latest threat.

On paper the Muslim world is a potential superpower. It has the land mass, the population, the education, the money—every ingredient that is required, except one. It is not unified. It is riven by petty disputes and doctrinaire squabbles.

There is an Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), but it has achieved little. It is dominated by the Saudi rulers, who, too, are feudal (or Bedouin) in their outlook. The Arab kings, emirs, sheikhs and sheiklets of today are an anachronism, weighed down by their own contradictions. More and more of their youth are educated overseas, where they are exposed to the latest information about the world and the benefits of modern democratic capitalism.

It is then that the powerful middle classes of countries like Malaysia and Indonesia will have a role to play, because they can provide examples of modern leadership and successful development. ◻

HUMAYUN GAUHAR IS THE EDITOR OF *Politics & Business*, A KARACHI-BASED WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE.

West mistakes umbrella for a sword

Malaysians pioneer developmental Islam

By M.G.G. Pillai

THE RAPID ECONOMIC development of Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1980s expanded their minuscule middle class, comprised mainly of aristocratic Muslims, commercial Chinese, and civil servants. Rapid economic change has widened the net, but neither nation reflects the normal Western distribution of upper class, middle class and the poor.

However, since Muslims in these countries account for 90 and 55 percent of the population respectively, the West is paying attention. With these numbers comes the attendant fear of Islamic fundamentalist pressure upsetting the development process.

This presumes a monolithic Islamic faith that does not exist. The further Islam moves from its West Asian heartland, the more tolerant and accommodative it becomes. The framework a faith survives by is determined by its surroundings, and Islam is no different. Islamic intellectuals in both countries frame their societies within a broad Islamic canvas, giving much leeway to a religious evolution that would not be acceptable in Saudi Arabia, with its strict adherence to the Wahabi sect of Sunni Islam, or with the more philosophical branch of Shia Islam in Iran.

The Muslim middle class does not fit into the Western mold of Islamic fanaticism. That exists, but as a fringe. The fear of an Islamic revolution assumes a societal breakdown in the face of modernization (and, it must be said, foreign interference). The middle class, especially its intellectual community, tries to adapt and adjust Islam as a living faith into their increasingly materialistic lives. Malaysia's former foreign minister, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, noted: "The Muslim middle class in Malaysia or Indonesia is no different from its Christian counterpart in London or Chicago."

This moderating influence enabled their agricultural societies to urbanize without the consequent breakdown in societal values, he noted. Another scholar, who declined to be named, divided the spread of Islam into three: fundamentalist (he called it obscurantist), cultural and development. Saudi Arabia and Iran would be in the first

category, Iraq, Libya, Tunisia in the second, Malaysia and Indonesia in the third.

This is not lost on the Muslim states of Central Asia. After the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1989, they invited Indonesian and Malaysian political and business leaders to advise them on re-orienting their societies from the Soviet model to that of developmental Islam, where religion is a sort of umbrella beneath which everything takes place without intruding into everyday life—except when needed. The Islamic intellectuals are moving to strengthen this process, especially as the communist ethic which guided social conduct is challenged by materialism and market forces.

Not to say that anyone looking for signs of stress will not find them. Any agricultural society that leaps into an industrial one in less than half a century is bound to be socially dislocated. The major cities of Indonesia and Malaysia have paid a price. The governments, faced with the larger agenda to integrate into the global economy, often ignore or downgrade these dislocations. But some of the rising middle class is unwilling, or unable, to come to terms with their relative affluence and those of their cousins in the countryside.

This psychosis, little talked about and rarely reported, is but one reason why many switch towards fundamental Islam. The comfort of the faith of their childhood, with its cardinal principles easily understood, is a powerful magnet, and not just to Muslims.

Whether the center will hold depends on the interaction of Indonesia and Malaysia with the global marketplace. It also depends on the policy and societal adjustments they must take to offer hope to the urban poor, who might otherwise support a more fundamentalist form of Islam, thereby making an Iran-style revolution something to worry about. At the moment, these pressures keep the new Muslim middle class on their toes—with a little help from the intellectuals. ◻

M.G.G. PILLAI IS A KUALA LUMPUR-BASED WRITER AND COMMENTATOR ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

DEVELOPMENTAL ISLAM

Jordan opens its door Visitors may hold the key to moderation

By Osama El-Sherif

THE 2,000-YEAR-OLD rose-red city of Petra in southern Jordan has seen conquerors of all colors and races. Today it is among the prime tourist sites for Europeans, Japanese and Americans who are coming in droves to Jordan—and the Middle East—to enjoy the fruits of peace. But while it is normal for the Bedouins of Wadi Mousa, the small town lying next to the Nabatean ruins of Petra, to see half-naked German, English and Israeli tourists arriving by the busloads to visit this magnificent city carved out of rock, in the past months Malaysian pilgrims, on their way to Mecca and Medina, have been stopping for the night to gaze at Petra.

For Jordanians, the Malaysians are not the kind of tourists they would expect to see in their country. Jordan has been a tourist destination for Europeans and Americans. But Muslims from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia have been heading to Jordan en route to Saudi Arabia to perform minor and major pilgrimages.

As fellow Muslims, Malaysians have gained the respect of common Jordanians. Their women wear the scarf, not the veil, to cover their heads, while their men show every respect to the culture of their host country. In Berlin's International Tourism Bourse (ITB) in March, the Jordanian pavilion was visited by eager travel agents from Malaysia and Singapore who were ready to strike deals with the Jordanian national carrier, which serves Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Jakarta, to transport pilgrims to Jordan and the Holy Land. Encouraged by the size of business these tourists are bringing to Jordan, the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism is cooperating with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to promote rarely visited Muslim shrines all over the Kingdom.

Jordanians are waking up to the fact that those visitors from the Far East are not only Muslims like them, but that they are wealthy, affluent and proud of their heritage. For many conservative Muslims in Jordan, the Muslims of Southeast Asia are the living proof that Islam as a religion and progress can co-exist and even "inspire one another," as a Jordanian thinker puts it.

Coexistence between religion and progress is one of the political and intellectual issues that occupy politicians and intellectuals at all levels in the Arab world. In the last decade the resurgence



Tuning Into the Far East: Jordanians are finding things to celebrate in new affluence of Malaysian and Indonesian Muslims

of a militant form of Islam, whose first triumph was the Iranian revolution in 1979, has brought the Arab world into a direct collision course with the West. The perception of Islam in the West was fashioned by fundamentalist movements in Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, Sudan, Lebanon and even secular Turkey, among others.

The resurgence of militant Islam, one that seeks to overturn existing pro-western regimes and replace them with a traditionalist Muslim society, has even scared the middle class in most Arab countries.

The conflict between these fundamentalist movements, some opting to change the status quo through peaceful political means while others resorting to military confrontation, has engulfed the Arab world in a cycle of violence that continues to shock the world.

But the more subtle Malaysian example—of which the Arabs know very little—where tradition and economic ambition peacefully coexist has yet to reach our region. There have been attempts to alienate Muslim societies from their religious traditions in Tunisia under former president Habib Bourguiba. Turkey's secular drive, launched by the founder of modern Turkey Ataturk, almost completed a full circle few months ago when conservative Muslims overtook secular

parties in the general elections and shocked Turkey's nervous European neighbors.

Jordan, a country known in the region for its moderation, was sucked into the cycle of Islamic awakening in the late 1980s. But the leadership was careful not to alienate or confront the emerging political force. King Hussein's gamble worked. Today the Muslim Brotherhood is the largest bloc in Parliament, but still the King was able to conclude a peace treaty with Israel and have it ratified democratically.

The King's brother, Prince Hassan, the Regent, has long recognized the importance of learning the lessons of Malaysia and other successful Muslim countries in Southeast Asia. Hassan has encouraged Jordanian businessmen to set up trade missions in these countries. But while none of the Arab countries has yet reached the level of industrialization of Malaysia, for example, Jordan is eyeing that experiment with interest.

It has to. Although Jordan's peace with Israel is more than a year old, little direct benefit has reached the average Jordanian. Peace with Israel remains a controversial issue and the Islamist parties are clear in their rejection of it on religious grounds. In fact, the problems of unemployment, poverty and economic

deprivation are driving more young Jordanians to the mosques.

It will not be easy for a country like Jordan to reverse this trend and create a much-needed reconciliation between religion and economic progress. Both are seen through distorting lenses. Some fear that westernization and the ills of the industrialized societies are being smuggled in under the guise of economic progress.

Take tourism for example. One of the most important sectors to flourish under peace will be tourism, promising to create much-needed jobs and bring in hard currency. But Islamists, fearing that tourism is an excuse to encourage the consumption of drugs and alcohol and weaken people's commitment to the Muslim scripture, point to how tourism has "corrupted" Egyptians.

But there are those in the Arab world who see lessons to be learned from the experience of Muslim countries in Southeast Asia. Moderate Muslim scholars like Sheikh Al Ghazali, Sheikh Yousif

Al Qatadawi, Dr Abdel Aziz Kamel and Dr Kamal Ahmad Abu Al Majd, among others, have all pointed to the possibility of reconciling the great Muslim religion with the principles of modernity. They point to the fact that tolerance and pluralism are two important prerequisites for that reconciliation to happen.

But these voices of moderation are being drowned in the tumult of bloody confrontation between oppressive Arab governments and militant radical Islamic movements.

One Jordanian intellectual offers another view. In his opinion, Islam reached the nations of Southeast Asia peacefully through Arab traders, and now it may come back to us in its "civilized" form through tourists and pilgrims from these countries.

OSAMA EL-SHERIF IS EDITOR OF THE JORDANIAN NEWSPAPER *The Star* and *The World Paper's* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

MUSLIM CREDENTIALS

Continued from page 1

Development Studies think-tank.

The reasons for ICMI's establishment go straight to the heart of Islam's new role in Indonesian society. At one level it is the direct product of the process of Islamic revivalism amongst the Indonesian middle class, providing them with a much-needed institutional forum through which to express their religious and cultural aspirations.

There are also political benefits for Suharto at a time when the president's relations with the armed forces are strained. Just as his predecessor, Sukarno (in office from 1945-67), once looked to the Indonesian Communist Party to counteract disgruntled senior army officers, Suharto hopes that Muslims will play a similar balancing role. Abdurrahman Wahid has called Suharto's enthusiasm for ICMI "a preemptive strike against potential opponents."

At the same time, the president is seeking to deflect strident criticism of his rule by outspoken modernist Muslim leaders and channel it into a new support group connected to the ruling establishment.

A roughly similar co-optation process took place in Malaysia in 1983 when Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad brought the firebrand Malay Muslim Student Association leader, Anwar Ibrahim, and some of his associates, into his government, thus neutralizing opposition from Malaysian Muslim intellectuals.

Only time will tell whether Suharto's tactics will be successful and whether he will be able to count on Islamic support when he goes for a seventh five-year term in office in 1998. As Indonesian wits put it, "There is no stipulation in our constitution for a life president, but we do have a president for as long as he lives!" But what is certain is that the new Islamic middle class will continue to grow in power and confidence, and that whoever rules Indonesia in the future will ignore it at their peril.

PETER CAREY IS A PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S TRINITY COLLEGE AND THE AUTHOR OF *East Timor at the Crossroads—The Forging of a Nation*.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

DOWN

Only
year as
Eternity
4. Weight
5. Fortified
6. Creaking
7. Large on
the line
8. Contempt
9. Perpetual
10. Peace officer
11. Ashore
12. Neighbor
13. Navy
14. Ceremony
15. Requirement

2. Painful
3. Spot
23. Speak
24. Exceedingly
25. Harborage
26. Thang
27. Muse
28. poetry
29. Concerns
30. Strangle

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Cinema

"MAGIC IN THE WATER" (Columbia/TriStar, 11). It made barely a splash in theaters last year, but this fantasy is being remastered on video with an emphasis on its "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial"-like theme. Mark Harmon plays a radio talk-show host whose children (Sarah Wayne, Joshua Jackson) discover a mysterious creature while the family is on vacation in Canada; Harley Jane Kozak also appears. ** (PG: P, V)

"HOSTILE INTENTIONS" (WarnerVision, 11). The plans of three female friends — played by Tia Carrere ("Wayne's World"), Lisa Dean Ryan ("Doogie Howser, M.D.") and Tricia Leigh Fisher (seen recently as Heidi Fleiss in a TV-movie) — are disrupted in this melodrama, as they attend a party that becomes too much for them to handle. After they leave, others follow, forcing the women to fight for survival. ** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "SEVEN" (New Line, 11). One of last fall's top box-office hits, director David Fincher's ("Seven") effectively dark melodrama casts Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman as detective partners searching for a killer who patterns his crimes after the seven deadly sins — greed, sloth, envy, etc. Gwyneth Paltrow, also Pitt's real-life lady, plays his wife here; the murderer's identity is a real surprise. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"THE HEIDI CHRONICLES" (Turner, 11). Jamie Lee Curtis stars in this made-for-TV adaptation of Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize and Tony-winning play, which considers women's status in society as reflected through the title character's experiences over three decades. Peter Friedman ("Brooklyn Bridge") plays the main man in her life; Kim Cattrall and Tom Hulce also appear. *** (Not rated: AS, P)

"ANGUS" (Turner, 11). Another tale in the underdog-overcoming-the-odds genre, this gentle, appealing comedy-drama features Charlie Talbert in the title role of an overweight youngster targeted as the victim of a football hero's prank. Ariana Richards ("Jurassic Park") plays the cheerleader worshipped by the story's hero; also in the cast are Academy Award winners George C. Scott and Kathy Bates. *** (PG-13: P)

COMING SOON: "THE SCARLET LETTER" (Hollywood, April 16). Demi Moore plays Nathaniel Hawthorne's heroine Hester Prynne in this revised version of the classic story. (R)

"STEAL BIG. STEAL LITTLE" (HBO/Savoy, April 16). Andy Garcia stars in this comedy as twin brothers who battle over the estate of their late, adoptive mother. (PG-13)

"UNSTRUNG HEROES" (Hollywood, April 16). Diane Keaton directed this offbeat tale of a family trying to cope with the mother's (Andie MacDowell) illness. (R)

"CUTTHROAT ISLAND" (LIVE, April 23). Geena Davis portrays a female pirate in this adventure, directed by her husband, Renny Harlin; Matthew Modine also stars. (PG-13)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
3:55—Blue Heelers
4:35—Big Brother Jake
5:00—News Flash
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Major Dad
8:00—Discovering the 7th Continent
8:30—Miami Vice
9:15—Word Net
9:30—Prism (local)
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *White Palace*, starring: Susan Sarandon and James Spader

SUNDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Bush School
3:45—Mac and Mitley
4:10—Italian Soccer
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—The American Chart Show
8:45—The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10—Blackie's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Counterstrike

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
3:55—Playabout
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
4:35—Bustin' Loose

5:00—News Flash

5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Nanny
8:00—Rhythms that Speak
8:30—Milner-Fenwick
9:00—Rock Around the World
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—P.S.I. Luv U
11:55—Taurus Rising

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:20—Captain Planet
3:45—Scientific Eye
4:10—The Bob Morrison Show
4:35—AIF
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Encounter
8:00—Home Improvement
8:20—Life in the Freezer
8:45—Milner Fenwick
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *Sister Sister*, starring: Eric Stoltz and Jennifer Jason

WEDNESDAY

3:00—The Flintstones
3:30—Dinosaurs
3:55—The New & Stoozes
4:00—Bill Nye the Science Guy
4:30—Alex Mac
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Evening Shade



Elizabeth Taylor in *The V.I.P.'s*, on Friday at 10:25pm

8:00—World Net
8:25—The Essential History of the Troubees
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Airwolf
11:55—Are You Being Served

THURSDAY

3:00—Aladdin
3:30—The New & Stoozes
3:55—NBA
4:35—Pirates
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—Taratata

9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Johnny's Girl*, starring: Treat Williams and Mia Kirschner
12:00—My Two Wives

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris: the Happy Professor
3:20—The Pebbles and Bamm Bamm Show
3:45—Bush School
3:55—See How They Grow
4:05—Gillette World Sports Special
4:30—Give Us a Clue
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs

7:30—News Headline

7:35—The Good Life
8:00—Nasty Boys
8:45—It Had To Be You
9:10—The Hanging Gale
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: *The V.I.P.'s*, starring: Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Série
Les plus petits que soi
6:00—Série
Château Vallon
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver
«Allemagne»

DIMANCHE

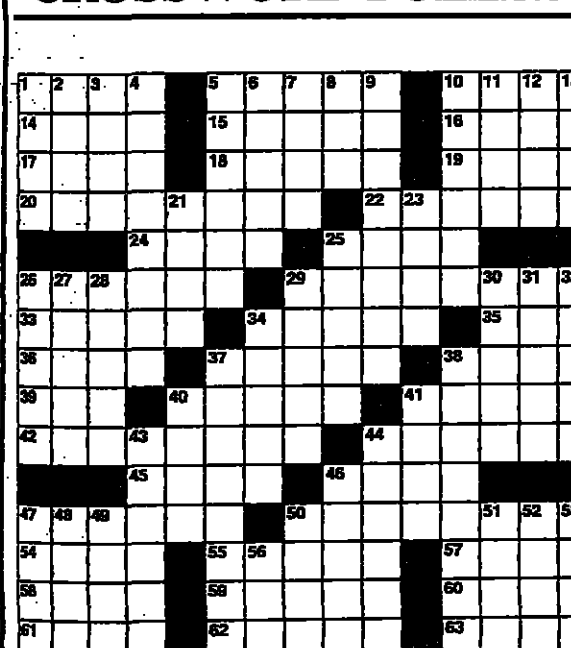
5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Série
Les plus petits que soi
6:00—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
«Ne plus souffrir; Alaska, la renaissance»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Divertissement
L'école des fans
«Hervé Villard»

Programs are subject to change by JTV

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Grand tale
10 Mentions for bravery
14 Intricate
15 Love, Italian style
16 Indian
17 Ship
18 Sharp weapon
19 Mouthful
22 Joined up
24 Road charge
25 Cogwheel
26 Guarantee
28 More peaceful
30 Kind of school
34 Inmate
35 Letters in genetics

DOWN
1 Only
2 Near as
3 Effrontery
4 Wets
5 Fortified dwelling
6 Urge on
7 — the line (conformed)
8 Perforated
9 Police officer
10 Go ashore
11 Neighbor of New
12 Ceremony
13 Requirement
21 Painful
22 Spot
23 Speak
24 Herbage
25 Thong
27 Muse of poetry
28 Strangle
30 Perfect
31 Growing out
32 Cleared the lawn
34 Hoisting device
37 Firm position
38 Flower
40 See
41 Transparent sheet
43 — of Capricorn
44 Wondrousland character
46 Code name
47 Shut noisily

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: There will be confrontations between authority figures and radicals, which ought to be interesting.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Start new projects. Hold your temper. A boss's biased assertion is best trumped with flawless logic—and facts.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Stop by the employment office. You might find a job that fits you perfectly. Practice your foreign language skills with a native speaker.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Schedule a fierce competition — it could lead to a love match. Apply for loans and/or jobs. It'll be a good experience.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Start a tough assignment now and push to get it finished. A gorgeous hunk or babe may want your time. Send out resumes.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Get up early so you can do something significant with your awesome powers before noon. Love and sports are favored.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Stick close to home, a friend may need you to help. If money's tight, work on a plan to make more money. You don't have to quit your regular job to start a business.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Write papers. Your literary style will be superb. Stay home to finish a tough assignment, even if it means passing up a date.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Work hard for the money. Also invest in something that will improve your employability. Find time, even if you have other things on your mind.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may fall seriously in love, so be careful who you're hanging out with! An athletic type is your best bet.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A meeting should go well. You'll have to hustle to get a horrible assignment done. Push forward with a special project you're creating — you're brilliant.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Ask for a raise. Something you learn could also put money in your pocket. Cut costs as much as possible.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Your experience leads to an overseas opportunity this year or a credential or both. Apply what you've learned, aggressively!

Bridge

Save the Entry
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K 10 9 7 6 2
♥ A 8 7
♦ A 8 5
♣ Q

WEST
♦ 8
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 7 4 3
♣ K 8 5 4 3 2

EAST
♦ Q J 4 3
♥ J 9 5
♦ 2
♣ A J 9 7 6

SOUTH
♦ A 5
♥ K Q 10 6 4 2
♦ K J 10 6
♣ 10

The bidding:
North: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 5♥, Pass
East: Pass, 2♥, 4NT, Pass, Pass
South: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 5♥, Pass
West: Pass, Pass, 4NT, Pass, Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣.
Successful finesses can be like the old medical story: The operation was successful, but the patient died. There could be a more important use for your high card.

Note North's heart raise instead of a spade rebid on the second round of the auction. With a known eight-card heart fit, North chose to raise partner's suit rather than repeat the six-card spade suit, whereafter a fake two diamond discards on the correction to hearts might sound like

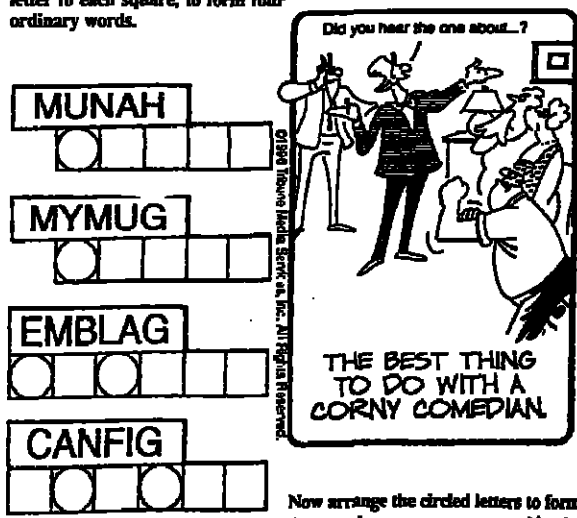
preference instead of good support. South bounced into the heart small slam when Blackwood revealed that one ace was missing.

West led the four of clubs, taken by East's ace. Warned by the fall of the ten that a club continuation could be dangerous, East shifted to a diamond. Declarer seized the chance for a free finesse by inserting the ten, covered by the queen and ace. Declarer drew two rounds of trumps with the king and queen, then left a trump outstanding when the suit failed to split evenly. The ace and king of spades came next but, even though West could not ruff, the 4-1 division meant that, while the suit could be established using the ace of hearts as an entry, there was no entry on the table to run the suit. When diamonds did not behave well, declarer eventually lost another trick — down one.

The diamond finesse was an illusion. If the spades could be set up, declarer would be able to take two discards from hand. But to accomplish that dummy's entries had to be preserved, so, at trick two, declarer should have played the king of diamonds from hand, then continued as before. When West showed out on the second spade, declarer could have ruffed the third round, entered dummy with a trump, drawing the last fang in the process, ruffed a spade to set up two long cards, then gotten back to the ace of diamonds to fake two diamond discards on the good spades. Making six-odd.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Words of Wisdom

People waste your time only if you let them.

If you think your opinions must grow and change.

One of the most valuable words in the English language is "no." It can keep you out of a lot of trouble.

Trust, once lost, is not easily regained.

Our weakest spots are the ones we are often most blind to.

If you seek peace, begin by becoming peaceful.

Those who have little and want less are richer than those who have much and want more.

Abu Shakra Launches Allure



MR RAMI Abu Shakra, General Manager of the Abu Shakra Trading Agency, introduces ALLURE, the new perfume from Chanel.

Mr Abu Shakra launched ALLURE by saying that every woman tries to find her own identity; a role in which she could express herself. Today, she suddenly remembers that such a perfume exists.

Woman with ALLURE can be found on every continent, in every country. They are immediately recognized.

In Africa, in America, in Asia, in Europe in a forgotten Jungle tribe or on the top of a skyscraper, women with ALLURE are the most beautiful, seem more free, and less predictable, they have the power to astonish. This makes other women jealous.

Mr Abu Shakra continued by saying that there is a key to ALLURE that makes it possible to enter this world that is fascinating to woman, so irresistible to men, this unique key is the perfume.

Perfume has a myriad effect. It is constantly changing like ALLURE, it possesses total freedom.

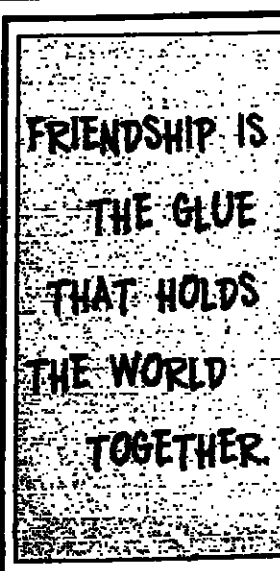
Rotary Club of Amman Cosmopolitan BCAP—Breast Cancer Awareness Project

UNDER THE patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Rotary Club of Amman Cosmopolitan, in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Jordan, are planning a Charity Walkathon (BCAP-96) on Friday, May 17. The purpose of the Walkathon is to raise funds for the operation of a mobile mammography machine that will be used to offer free mammography and clinical examinations to patients who cannot afford these procedures. Participants will start from the Amra Hotel at 8:30 am, and finish at the junction of Daba "Iraq Al-Ameer Road", covering a distance of 10 km (map enclosed).

Each participant is invited to make a donation of JD 5 to the "Breast Cancer Awareness Project." You are welcome to participate in this event by forming a team from your embassy, business or school to join the walk. Individuals or team captains can pick up a registration form and pay JD 5 for each participant at the office of the Secretary of the Rotary Club of Amman Cosmopolitan. The office is located on the fourth floor of the Adly Center (Universal Trading Group) in Shmeisani. Non-participants are also invited to make a donation to this worthy cancer project at the same location.

We thank you for your contribution to this worthy activity. One out of 15 women worldwide will contract breast cancer in her lifetime. Remember, the early detection of breast cancer can save the lives of our loved ones. Please join us in the BCAP-96 Walkathon.

For further information, please call the Rotary Club of Amman Cosmopolitan's office at 681-797. ■

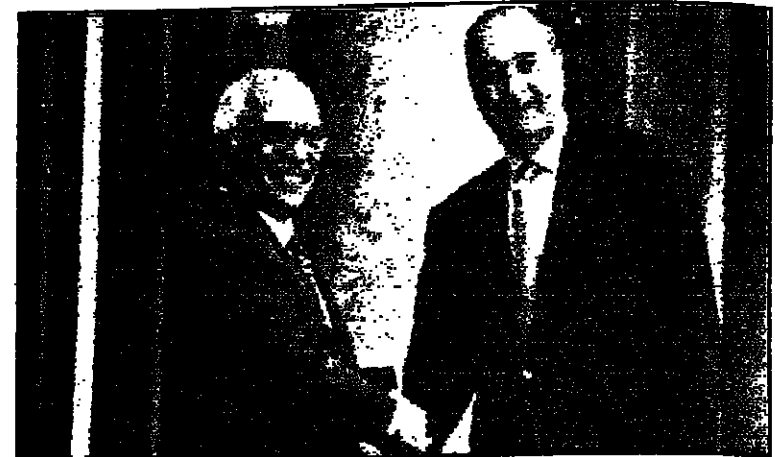


Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Hussein de Jordanie de passage à Paris

Le roi Hussein a déjeuné lundi à l'Élysée en compagnie du président Jacques Chirac et de Hervé de Charette, ministre des affaires étrangères. Il a indiqué à cette occasion qu'il avait invité Jacques Chirac à Amman et que «toutes les procédures étaient en cours» pour une prochaine visite du président français en Jordanie, une visite que l'Élysée n'a pas confirmée. Les deux chefs d'État se sont entretenus de la situation au Proche-Orient, le roi Hussein portant «une appréciation très positive» de l'action diplomatique de la France dans la région après les affrontements du Sud-Liban. Jacques Chirac a d'autre part rendu hommage «au partenariat régulier et fiable» de la Jordanie avec l'Institut du Monde arabe qui devrait accueillir des manifestations dans le cadre de la prochaine saison jordanienne en France.



Jordanie

Les médias étudient leur avenir

Les médias faisaient la une de l'actualité cette semaine. Deux jours après la journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse, un colloque s'intéressait à l'avenir et à l'évolution des médias en Jordanie.

Pendant deux jours, un colloque intitulé «Médias et journalisme, réalités et ambitions...» a eu lieu cette semaine au Centre culturel royal.

Inauguré par le Ministre de l'Information, ce colloque a traité des défis auxquels les médias doivent faire face aujourd'hui en Jordanie. L'occasion pour Faleh Al Tawil, éditeur en chef du quotidien «Al Doustour», de donner son opinion sur la situation des médias dans le royaume.

Peut-on parler de liberté de la presse en Jordanie?

La liberté d'expression est un des droits humains fondamentaux. Avoir la liberté d'exprimer sans empêchement sur celle des autres vous mène vers un dialogue. Ça, malheureusement, ça ne se manifeste pas en Jordanie car notre expérience est très récente dans ce domaine. Ici, le mot liberté n'a pas forcément le même sens qu'en Europe ou en France. Nous connaissons des limites dues, en partie, à notre culture, une culture islamique.

Faleh Al Tawil

Faleh Al Tawil est entré dans le corps diplomatique jordanien en 1962. Il a notamment été en poste comme ambassadeur au Pakistan, en ex-URSS ou en Irak avant de prendre sa retraite voilà deux ans, en 1994. Il est aujourd'hui éditeur en chef du quotidien jordanien Al Doustour.



Nous avons l'habitude d'accuser les États-Unis d'avoir une démocratie d'abonnement: plus vous payez, plus vous exercez vos droits. Mais chez nous, à quoi d'autre ressemble notre démocratie?

Comment pensez-vous que les médias peuvent dépasser cette situation et l'améliorer?

Les médias ne jouent pas le rôle qu'ils devraient. Le vrai média doit être en avance sur le peuple, et non l'inverse. Il faut lui fournir des modèles pour l'avenir, et essayer de former les gens.

Comment jugez-vous les médias du pays?

A part quelques bons journalistes et éditorialistes, la majorité de la profession n'a pas un bon niveau de journalisme. Personnellement, j'ai accès aux journaux jordaniens et internationaux comme al Hayat ou al Ahram dans lesquels j'aime découvrir des points de vues différents. Le but que vise tout journaliste professionnel, c'est la satisfaction des lecteurs.



Pendant deux jours, la question de l'évolution que doivent connaître les médias jordaniens a été au centre des débats au Centre culturel royal.

quelque soit leur éducation ou leur mode de vie. Nos médias continuent à trop souffrir du «système local».

Ce jugement concerne-t-il tous les médias ou essentiellement la presse?

Je ne suis pas content de la situation de la presse en Jordanie. Je crois qu'il nous faut du temps avant de réussir à exercer nos droits et accomplir nos devoirs librement. Une des caractéristiques de notre société est notre façon d'aborder les sujets. Nous n'avons pas l'habitude de créer. Au contraire, nous imitons au lieu d'approfondir nos connaissances. Notre société est une société de transition dans laquelle circulent toutes sortes d'idées. Mais nous n'avons pas encore

vraiment développé un concept qui nous convienne.

Comment peut-on améliorer la presse en Jordanie?

Soyons généreux! Envoyons les journalistes dans des centres de formation à l'étranger et laissons entrer des experts afin de permettre une étude analytique qui s'intéresserait aussi au lectorat. Evidemment se pose aussi la question de l'indépendance des journaux. Nous essayons de plaider au pouvoir parce que nous n'avons pas le courage de le critiquer. C'est aux rédacteurs en chef de soutenir les journalistes, jusqu'à ce que le gouvernement accepte le fait d'être critiqué.

Propos recueillis par Oroub El Abed

Négociations définitives

Israël-OLP: trois ans pour tout régler

Israéliens et Palestiniens ont entamé dimanche la phase finale du processus de paix. Des pourparlers sur le statut final des territoires palestiniens qui devraient s'étaler sur trois ans pour s'achever avant le mois de mai 1999. Ibrahim Kriesheh, artisan de l'accord d'Oslo, nous donne son sentiment sur le lancement de ces négociations.

Les négociations de l'OLP et d'Israël ont entamé dimanche en Egypte les négociations sur le statut définitif des territoires palestiniens. Ces négociations prévues par «la déclaration de principes» du 13 septembre 1993 débutent dans un contexte délicat. Elles interviennent au moment où le premier ministre israélien Shimon Peres a décidé de reporter le redéploiement de la ville d'Hébron, alors qu'un blocus militaire est toujours imposé aux Palestiniens.

Un premier accord d'aillieurs eu lieu entre les deux délégations avant même le début des discussions. Lors d'un tête-à-tête précédant la session formelle des pourparlers, le chef de la délégation israélienne Ouri Savir a demandé à son homologue palestinien Mahmoud Abbas d'éliminer du discours qu'il devait prononcer toute référence à une résolution de l'Onu de 1948 reconnaissant le droit de retour aux réfugiés. Il s'agit de la résolution 194 qui reconnaît le droit au retour, ou à défaut à des compensations, aux réfugiés palestiniens qui sont partis pendant la guerre de 1948 de leurs terres qui forment aujourd'hui l'État d'Israël. Le fait que Mahmoud Abbas semble alors avoir accepté cette requête a rendu furieux les négociateurs palestiniens. M. Savir a lui-même qualifié d'«ineptie totale» cette polémique, affirmant qu'il n'y avait eu aucune pression israélienne.

La question des réfugiés est loin d'être la seule à poser de grandes difficultés dans les négociations sur un règlement permanent. Les positions des deux parties divergent fondamentalement sur le sort des colonies juives dans les territoires, la question de Jérusalem, le tracé des frontières et la création d'un État palestinien. Dans l'immédiat, les deux parties ne devaient discuter que de questions d'ordre du jour et de procédure, les vraies négociations ne devant commencer qu'après les élections générales israéliennes.

La question de Jérusalem. Les Israéliens ont annoncé que Jérusalem sera unifiée et deviendra la capitale d'Israël. C'est

Interview

«Israël doit respecter ses engagements»

Ibrahim Kriesheh occupe la fonction de directeur général adjoint du département des négociations de l'OLP, département présidé par Mahmoud Abbas (Abou Mazen), chef de la délégation palestinienne en Egypte. Membre du comité exécutif de l'OLP, Ibrahim Kriesheh a été l'un des artisans de l'accord d'Oslo.

Quel jugement portez-vous sur les premiers pourparlers?

Le résultat n'est pas satisfaisant car ils n'ont pas débouché sur des décisions claires et franches permettant de constituer les différentes commissions chargées des dossiers épineux comme Jérusalem, les réfugiés... Cette rencontre intervient à un moment délicat pour les Israéliens, des dissensions existent entre le parti travailliste et le gouvernement israélien à propos de l'accord avec les Palestiniens.

Cependant, l'engagement symbolique et formel par rapport au rendez-vous fixé au 4 mai 1996 pour le début des négociations sur le statut final des territoires palestiniens est un point positif. Tout comme la déclaration du président de la délégation israélienne, Ouri Savir, qui a prédit des améliorations dans les semaines à venir dans la vie des Palestiniens.

De plus, les deux parties ont décidé de créer un groupe de suivi des négociations. Celui-ci regroupera 4 ou 5 personnes de chaque côté. Il sera chargé de définir le cadre et les modalités des pourparlers. Il se réunira de façon informelle pour la reprise des négociations après les élections israéliennes.

Quels sont à vos yeux les divergences soulevées dans cette première session?

La question de Jérusalem. Les Israéliens ont annoncé que Jérusalem sera unifiée et deviendra la capitale d'Israël. C'est



une décision prématurée car les accords d'Oslo stipulent que cette question reste à négocier. Pour nous, l'accord d'Oslo part clairement de la décision 242 du Conseil de sécurité demandant le retrait des troupes d'Israël des territoires occupés en 1967. Et Jérusalem fait partie de ces territoires.

Comment pouvez-vous débiter ces négociations au moment où l'accord transitoire n'est pas respecté, la ville d'Hébron n'ayant pas été évacuée?

Les négociations sur les questions de l'accord transitoire continuent indépendamment de la solution définitive. Mais il faut qu'Israël respecte ses engagements pour donner une crédibilité à sa position dans les négociations actuelles.

Qu'allez-vous faire si le parti de droite Likoud revient au pouvoir, et avec quel préférence vous traitera-t-il?

La déclaration de principe a été signée entre l'OLP et le gouvernement israélien, indé-

pendamment de qui le dirige. Si le Likoud gagne les élections, le processus continuera car l'accord avec le gouvernement israélien a été signé devant le monde entier, et en particulier les États-Unis et la Russie dont les signatures figurent au bas de l'accord. Mais nous préférons traiter avec les Travaillistes car il y a un courant plus raisonnable et réaliste au sein de ce mouvement qui travaille à la réconciliation historique entre les deux peuples.

Propos recueillis à Gaza par Hassan Balawi

Presse arabe

Une liberté trop étouffée

Chaque année, Reporters sans frontières publie un rapport sur la situation de la liberté de la presse dans le monde. Une étude qui place le Maghreb et le Moyen-Orient au rang des mauvais élèves.

Une première

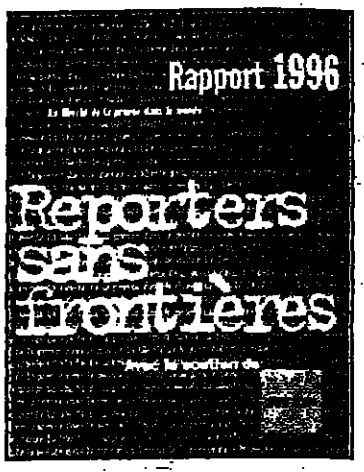
essentielle constatation s'impose à l'observateur de l'état de la liberté de la presse au Maghreb et au Moyen-Orient: en dehors de la seule réelle démocratie, Israël, les États du monde arabo-persique ne respectent guère la liberté d'information, ni la profession de journaliste. Bien que chaque cas nécessite une étude spécifique, en général les autorités naviguent entre un paternalisme autoritaire, dans le meilleur des cas, et un absolutisme total dans le pire, l'information indépendante du pouvoir étant jugée subversive. Certes, le Maghreb et le Moyen-Orient ne sont pas les régions où l'on recense le plus de journalistes emprisonnés - vingt-deux au total, c'est-à-dire presque l'équivalent de la seule Chine -, ni les plus de journalistes tués - hormis en Algérie, qui, par sa spécificité nécessite un traitement distinct -, mais la situation de la presse demeure pourtant l'une des plus préoccupantes du monde. Ce paradoxe provient tout simplement du fait que, dans nombre des pays qui composent le monde arabe, comme au Soudan, en Lybie, en Syrie, en Irak ou encore dans une partie de la péninsule arabique, la liberté de la presse est quasiment inexistante. Les médias sont gouvernementaux, jouent le rôle de porte-parole du pouvoir et l'autocensure est la règle. Tous ces critères réunis donnent une presse aux ordres, dénuée d'indépendance, où les voix discordantes se taisent. Aussi, il n'est nul besoin pour les autorités de sévir, puisque, depuis longtemps, la liberté de la presse a été étouffée.

Mais la situation n'en demeure pas homogène pour autant. Dans d'autres pays de la région, comme l'Algérie et la Tunisie mais aussi le Liban, l'Égypte, la Jordanie, la Palestine, le Yémen, les Monarchies du Golfe ou l'Iran, une presse privée subsiste, mais plus ou

moins contrôlée par le pouvoir.

Au Liban, une presse de qualité existait avant-guerre. Après avoir survécu aux seize années de conflit, elle tente de renaître et de reconquérir son lectorat. Mais, depuis la fin des hostilités et le dépeuplement de l'armée syrienne, le pays vit à l'heure de Damas, qui impose sa loi à l'ensemble des médias. Tout ce qui peut heurter le régime du président Hafez al-Assad est passé sous silence. En Égypte, un «accord tacite» régit les relations presse-pouvoir. Les journaux sont libres d'aborder n'importe quel sujet, à l'exception de ceux concernant le président, qui ne souffre pas la moindre mise en cause. Mais la situation pourrait rapidement se détériorer si la nouvelle loi sur la presse, encore plus restrictive, était définitivement entérinée. En Jordanie, il est question de réviser la loi sur la presse et les publications, notamment les sanctions qu'elle prévoit, afin de contraindre les journalistes à se montrer plus «respectueux» des textes légaux. Mais le pouvoir, qui aurait dû depuis longtemps réduire sa participation dans le capital de certains journaux, ne semble pas pressé de se conformer aux textes qu'il a lui-même pourtant édictés.

En Palestine, l'arrivée de Yasser Arafat à Gaza en juin 1994 a amorcé le déclin de la liberté de la presse palestinienne, qui jouissait paradoxalement



d'une indépendance éditoriale relative sous l'occupation israélienne. Au lieu de s'améliorer, la situation des journalistes s'est nettement détériorée. En un an et demi, pas moins de quarante journalistes ont été interpellés par les services de renseignements de l'Autorité palestinienne.

En fait, aucune information indépendante n'est disponible, les violations de la liberté de la presse ne décrivant que partiellement une situation très préoccupante dans le Maghreb et le Moyen-Orient. Seule véritable lueur dans ce sombre tableau: la presse israélienne. Elle jouit d'une totale liberté, à l'image des médias occidentaux, et n'est limitée que par la censure militaire, une des clefs de voûte de la politique de sécurité de l'État hébreu.

Reporters sans frontières

51 journalistes tués en 1995

Dans son rapport annuel publié le 3 mai à l'occasion de la journée mondiale de la liberté de la presse, Reporters sans frontières tient de macabres statistiques. 51 journalistes ont été tués en 1995, 386 emprisonnés et 45 sont toujours portés disparus depuis 1988.

Le continent africain demeure la région du monde la plus dangereuse: 28 journalistes ont perdu la vie en Afrique, dont 22 en Algérie. Un bilan global toutefois moins lourd qu'en 1994, le conflit du Rwanda ayant à lui seul entraîné le mort d'au moins une cinquantaine de journalistes.

Reporters sans frontières

Economie

Le trait d'union méditerranéen

A l'approche de négociations importantes pour la signature d'un accord de partenariat avec l'Union européenne, la Jordanie se découvre des points communs avec certaines régions méditerranéennes comme le Sud de la France.

C'est aujourd'hui

que les quinze membres de l'Union européenne fêtent la journée de l'Europe. Une commémoration qui revêt désormais une certaine importance pour beaucoup d'autres pays dans le monde, et notamment la Jordanie. Certes, le royaume hachémite ne possède pas encore de liens très serrés avec l'Union européenne. Il ne devrait entrer dans l'espace européen de libre échange que vers l'année 2010. Mais on sent déjà à peu près Amman et Bruxelles se rapprocher. Ce sentiment de proximité a été beaucoup renforcé par la conférence de Barcelone en novembre dernier. Au cours de cette réunion entre les «Douze» du bassin méditerranéen et les quinze de l'Union, les bases d'un partenariat entre la Jordanie et l'UE ont été jetées.

Aujourd'hui, la Jordanie est en pleines négociations pour arriver à conclure un accord de partenariat. Le ministre jordanien de l'Information Marwan Moasher d'ailleurs déclaré en mars que la Jordanie était sur le point de conclure cet accord, espérant atteindre cet objectif dès le mois de juin après un ou deux rounds de négociations.

Mais loin de ces pourparlers, la Jordanie est déjà liée à l'Europe, ou du moins à certaines régions de l'Union. Prenons l'exemple de la France, qui ne se limite pas à sa capitale, Paris. Une visite dans le sud permet de découvrir une étonnante réalité: les paysages, les mentalités et les problèmes économiques sont plutôt ceux du Sud. Là-bas aussi, la question de l'eau occupe une place primordiale, notamment en Provence. Et c'est dans la capitale de cette région, à Marseille, que s'est tenue le mois dernier Hydrotop, une

manifestation réunissant des participants du monde entier pour traiter de la question de l'eau à travers ses différents aspects. Il est évident que la Provence et la Jordanie partagent dans ce domaine des soucis communs. De nombreuses entreprises françaises ont pu présenter à Marseille leur savoir-faire dans ce domaine, telle que la société Gersar qui suit actuellement plusieurs projets en Jordanie.

Mais la grande majorité des experts n'avait qu'une vague idée de la Jordanie et des possibilités de travail existant dans cette région du Moyen-Orient entrée dans l'ère de l'après-guerre.

En tout cas, la perçée diplomatique française opérée

dans le conflit israélo-palestinien peut déboucher sur une certaine ouverture du marché local aux entreprises françaises.

Marseille, de par sa position géographique, son histoire, ses réalisations techniques en matière d'aménagement des ressources en eau et de lutte contre la pollution, peut jouer le rôle de trait d'union entre le Nord et le Sud, la France et le Moyen-Orient, l'Europe et la Jordanie. Dans ces liens se dessinent les futurs accords européens de partenariat dans lesquels le secteur de l'eau jouera bien sûr un rôle important.

Riad al Khouri
MEBA S.A.R.L.

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

«Quai des brumes», de Marcel Carné (1938) avec Michèle Morgan, Jean Gabin.

C'est avec ce film que Michèle Morgan est devenue une vedette à part entière, grâce à Prévert et Carné.

Le 13 mai à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

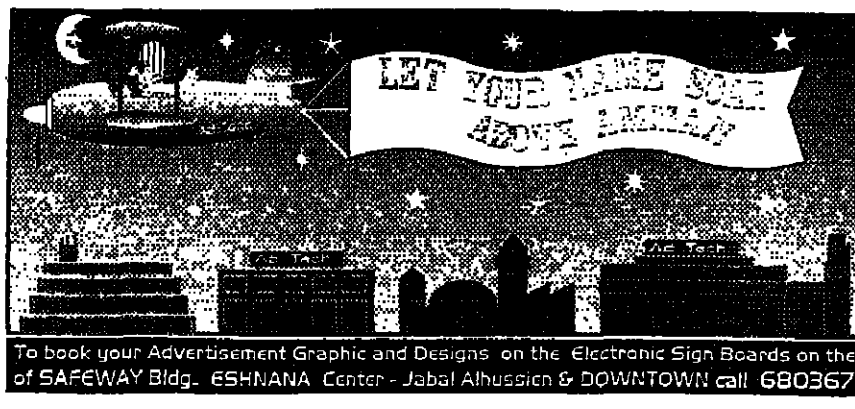


Peinture

Du 12 au 15 mai, exposition au CCF des peintures et dessins des élèves du collège Nazareth.

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By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

NEWSGROUPS ARE probably the most intriguing part of the Internet.

These electronic bulletin boards are the forums of debate for over 40 million people that currently use this gigantic global network of computers.

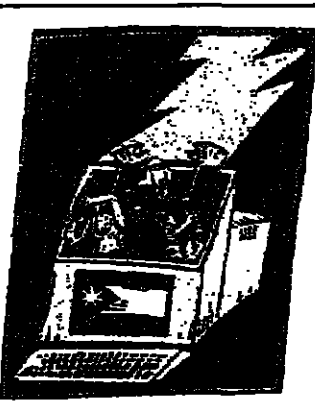
News groups allow users to post their messages to debate diverse issues of politics, sociology, technology, religion and a multitude of other issues.

A truly international atmosphere you might conclude. Alas, the Internet—including the bulk of its News groups—carries a strong and inherent Anglo-American bias.

This shouldn't come as a surprise; the Internet was developed by the US Defense Department and most of its users and the computer servers that constitute its backbone are in America. In addition, the vast majority of Internet users outside the United States, especially in the Third World, are those who studied in the West. This should ring a warning bell: If the Internet is to seriously present itself as a medium for positive cultural interchange towards a more understanding and tolerant humanity and a more informed one for that matter, it has—or shall we say its users have—to diversify more to reduce the strong current Anglo-American taste in it. And this cultural diversification is starting to happen, albeit slowly.

The Kidlink project, for instance, presents itself as a brilliant example of the work that is happening towards "DeAmericanizing" the Internet. It is an international News group aiming at establishing constant and

positive communications between kids from all backgrounds and cultures. This News group is already present in 83 countries and has succeeded in connecting more than 50,000 children on its project. The languages used include Spanish, Japanese, Nordic, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. One cannot



but wish that the grown ups of the world start a similar "communications" project.

In Jordan, News groups are still not very common: The subscribers to the Internet are too few and are more inclined to browsing the World Wide Web than engaging in News groups discussions.

Furthermore, the two on line services in Jordan, Access and NETS, have local News groups (conferences and forums) specific to and limited by their respective servers (i.e. not linked to the Internet News groups).

This is not to say that these local News groups are not thriving with debate. For they definitely are.

On NETS' conferences (News groups) for instance, subscribers

discuss the latest developments of the Israeli aggression on South Lebanon on the "Better Jordan" conference, engage in dialogues with the Head of JTV in the "live JTV chat hour" and forward questions to the Government to be answered by Prime Minister Al Kabariy and Minister of Information Dr. Marawan Mussaher on the "Ask the Government" conference. More importantly, members of the Royal family occasionally contribute to the many debates and discussions occurring on the conferences of NETS.

However, the local News groups on Jordan's local online services provide an intriguing demonstration of how far away we are from the day when the Internet loses its strong Anglo-American flavor.

Until now, subscribers to NETS and Access express their mostly very patriotic Arab sentiments in well... English. They address their government in English. And they discuss Arab nationalism and Islam also in English. This could be construed as a strong indication of the high level of Education and awareness in our country.

However, and by the same token, critics would quite rightly point out that this use of a foreign language to discuss national issues presents a big barrier of entry to many people—who aren't as fluent in English—who would otherwise offer very meaningful contributions to the debate. Any observer of discussions in conferences and forums in NETS and Access would readily notice that the participants are mostly people with Western education.

Unless local software companies cooperate with worldwide developers to devise proper

AST launches new high performance notebook: Ascentia P Series, cost effective

THE HIGHLY active notebook market in the Middle East is set to get some major new competition in the form of AST's newly-launched Ascentia P series, which includes models sporting Intel Pentium 100 Mhz and 133 Mhz processors.

AST is seeing the introduction of the P series high performance notebooks as part of its regional strategy to support reseller partners by "bringing the right product to market at the right time and, with the spiraling use of e-mail and Internet service in the Middle East, there has rarely been a better time for a notebook of this caliber." The Ascentia P series provides notebook vendors with a cost effective way to bring high performance multimedia capabilities, such as full screen video and desktop equivalent performance to a wider range of notebook users.

"AST has been traditionally strong in the Middle East notebook sector and the new P series is going to help to consolidate our position in the market," said Mirza Basravi, general manager of AST Middle East.

"The high mobility of people operating in the Middle East has helped to boost the market but notebook technology

changes rapidly and AST sees the P series as bringing powerful benefits in terms of sales for the channel and performance features for the user," he added.



The Ascentia P series includes high performance models equipped with desktop equivalent features. The notebook is built in such a way that the chassis had flexibility to house either a CD-ROM drive, floppy drive, or a second battery. This revolutionary modular bay is called AST Smart Bay. Despite a world shortage of lithium in batteries, AST has ensured its own adequate supply of the power packs that can give up to 7 hours of working life. (Using AST advanced power management and with a

second lithium battery in the modular bay, up to 10 hours non-stop computing can be achieved).

Leading edge technologies in P series models include Intel's mobile 82430MX chipset, PCI Bus, high resolution SVGA displays, 256KB of level 2 cache, integrated audio support and infrared communications.

Specifications of the P30 and P50 models include Intel Pentium 100 Mhz and 133 Mhz processors respectively, 11.3 "high resolution Dual-Scan STN displays and Super VGA active matrix TFT displays respectively, 256 KB of L2 cache, 800MB or 1.2GB hard drives, 8MBs of EDO RAM, 32-bit PCI Bus and 1MB VRAM for one of the most powerful notebooks on the market. A game port, MPEG software support, SoundBlaster-compatible 16-bit audio kit and integrated speakers make the P series ideally suited for performing graphics-intensive work, multi-media presentations or for playing the latest video game.

All AST Ascentia notebooks are covered by a worldwide three year limited warranty, giving users the convenience and flexibility of having their notebook computer services throughout the world. ■

News update

Tandem and Microsoft work together

● Tandem Computers Inc. and Microsoft Corp. announced an alliance to create machines that will be made by Tandem and will run the Microsoft Windows NT operating system. The first of the systems is to be available this summer.

Tandem is best known for large, so-called fault-tolerant computer systems, which use multiple, redundant processors to insure continuous operation.

Ambition standards for the Internet and the Online services, we will dwell in the awkward situation of using English for our online discussions and debates.

A definite sign of the hegemony of Anglo American ways on the Internet, wouldn't you agree? ■

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Though Tandem for many years has been a leading supplier to banks, stock exchanges and other customers requiring such performance, its sales have stagnated as the market for large, proprietary systems has become saturated.

Joining forces with Microsoft to produce a less costly, more open system will result in new growth. For Microsoft, joining forces with Tandem may push Windows NT into the market for so-called mission-critical applications, meaning those without which an organization cannot function.

Though Windows NT, the more powerful counterpart to Windows 95, has been gaining corporate users rapidly, it has not penetrated the very high end of the market, which remains a stronghold for Tandem and similar companies.

Though actual prices were not available, Pieper said the new machines would start at \$30,000 to \$50,000, while Tandem's proprietary systems start at about \$150,000.

Promoting the sale of original leisure software for PCs

● A new company has been established in the region to distribute and market CD-ROM titles for PCs.

Red Distribution & Marketing, based in Dubai, will distribute and market titles for PCs, and titles for the new generation games consoles throughout the Middle East, representing leading European and American publishers such as Ocean, Gremlin Interactive, Microprose, Acclaim, US Gold and Ubisoft.

This represents an important step further in marketing games and leisure software in the region. For further details, contact Red Distribution & Marketing on ++ 971 4 314004 or ++ 971 4 313190.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Web Marketing: In Jordan?

HOW CAN the Internet benefit your business? You're probably asking yourself that question amidst all the hype and mania about the Internet.

Well, what the Internet can do for you depends on what the nature of your business is to begin with. If your business involves marketing products or services to a wide audience, who may happen to be Internet users, then you should seriously consider setting up your own page on the World Wide Web. Already tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of companies are racing to utilize the WorldWide Web for marketing their products, hoping that it will provide them with the competitive advantage they require. Even more important, with everyone else going for Web pages, it is becoming necessary to keep up with the competition.

A company's site on the World Wide Web acts as an on-line advertisement of its products and services providing full information to interested buyers. On the one hand, and could provide the medium necessary to communicate with these buyers to close the sale.

Also, in some cases, the Web site is actually a Web Shop, which allows users to place their orders for the purchase of products. In some countries, you can even pay.

With the Internet craze in Jordan still in full swing, their is a rising interest among Jordanian businesses to "get onto the Internet by establishing their own sites on the World Wide Web, the Internet's main marketing network.

Over the last couple of months, Jordanian companies have undergone an intensive educational phase on what the Internet is and how to use it.

With the introduction of Internet On-Line services from Global One / Sprint Jordan, more and more Jordanian businesses want to explore the possibilities on offer from the Internet.

Leading examples include the Arab Bank and ARAMEX, both of whom already have a presence of the Web, and are developing their sites to serve the needs of their clients. For example, the ARAMEX site on the Web should actually be able to assist you in tracking your shipments worldwide!

As for the Arab Bank, the site is mainly a showcase of services, which will probably not offer on-line banking for some time. But, one day when there is a standard security system for on-line transactions on the Internet, the possibilities will be unlimited. Who is designing these Web pages, you may wonder? Well, there are a number of Jordanian firms providing Internet consultancy. These include Business Optimization Consultants (B.O.C.), Arabia On-Line, Magnet and others.

Although you hear that anybody can create Web pages, because the software tools needed are so simple and easy-to-use, the fact remains that a "serious" Web page should be handled by specialized people.

A colleague of mine said something interesting about all of this, by commenting that "anyone can learn how to create their own Web site, but it takes expertise to maintain it, develop it, and provide timely service."

That is quite true and in the "more mature" markets of Europe and the US, a situation has evolved by which there are those hobbyists who can provide you with an inexpensive, yet humble, presence on the Web and their full-fledged Web agencies complete with staff and experienced personnel to answer your every requirement from the World Wide Web.

Still, for now, the fact remains that your Web site will be mostly visited by people from outside Jordan, as their are still so few Jordanians actually on the Internet. Given time this will change, that when you can expect to find anything and everything when it comes to Jordanian products and services.

Now, the right thing to do is carefully watch what's going on worldwide. There are more and more reports and studies becoming available on topics related to Internet and business. As a matter of fact, there are even some on the Middle East. Following up on all these matters should provide an idea of things to come as far as marketing on the World Wide Web is concerned. ■

Jordan, suffering from bad back, says he ignores injuries

By Michael Wilton

CHICAGO—Plopping down into a chair isn't something you think about, usually. But sitting hasn't been a simple act for Michael Jordan the past few days. Just the other day, at the start of a postgame interview session, Jordan began to sit, then shifted his body. He looked at the chair, shifted again, and lowered himself carefully, slowly, and probably even painfully. Then he smiled. "No negative thoughts," Jordan said. "Mind over matter."

Of all the extraordinary things Jordan has been able to do on a professional basketball court these past 11 years, perhaps the most inexplicable is the way he can play with pain. His tolerance for pain, or perhaps the ability to ignore it altogether, have become legendary around the NBA. Sunday's 44-point performance in a Chicago Bulls victory over the New York Knicks only adds to the lore.

Since suffering a twisted back against Miami three games ago, Jordan has had a simple existence: treatment, rest, game, treatment, rest, game. No practice, no golf, not even dinner after Sunday's Game 1 against the Knicks.

John Hefferon, who has been the Bulls team physician for 13 years, said yesterday, "This particular injury could have forced someone to sit for a week or more." Jordan has vowed he won't miss a game, and there's no reason to doubt him. Since 1985, of the 125 playoff games in which Jordan has been available to play, he has never missed one. And he's missed a grand total of six games with injuries the past nine seasons.

Jordan doesn't even like to talk about injuries for fear opponents will think he is vulnerable. But Sunday night, pressed on the issue, he said:

"What I try to do is focus on the moment, the situation at hand. Instead of allowing myself to think about pain, I try to concentrate on the value of my skills to this team. Once I'm out there, I just go at it. If it hurts too much to go left or bend over, then I don't do it. Against the Knicks, I didn't want to come out looking hurt. They see you bleed, they go for more blood."

The never-let-them-see-you-sweat philosophy is at the core of Jordan's stubbornness. If Hefferon tells Jordan he doesn't risk permanent damage, Jordan goes back into the game regardless of the injury. Against the Knicks in 1993, Jordan sprained his wrist and was so hurt he was shooting air balls. But he insisted on staying in the game, and compensated to the point where he hit big shots down the stretch. Against the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1991 NBA Finals, Jordan's foot was so

swollen one shoe had to be cut open, but he played brilliantly anyway.

In fact, Jordan has had some of his best games while suffering from the

or a sprained ankle, or a twisted back, or some ailment he might hide from opponents and the media.

"Yeah, I tend to forget about the situation I'm in and focus on what I'm supposed to do, how I'm supposed to play," Jordan said. "I don't think about the negatives. If I'm sick, I'm sick. I don't want to play sick."

When told that Coach Jeff Van Gundy had suggested too much was

being made about Jordan's back, Jordan said, "I don't look for the attention. When I face his team, I don't have a hurt back."

Jordan wouldn't even use the word "hurt" when talking about Game 1. "I knew I was tired in the fourth quarter. So I thought about a lot of different things to push myself, to ignore it. Like what? 'Like all the work I put forth over the summer to be where we are.'"

It was only a few seconds later, when asked about Patrick Ewing, that Jordan slipped up and said Ewing "can be a thorn in your back."

Hefferon agrees that much of this is mind over matter, the infamous Jordan will. "I've seen guys go out and play when they shouldn't," the doctor said. "Charles Barkley was here once and he was sick with a high fever and after the game I wondered how in the world he could have played. I think mentally, there are a few people in the world who can just ignore the pain and play through it to an incredible



degree. Those people also gave great reserve and will. I've seen Michael for so many years. I know when he's doing things to save himself a few steps because he's hurt. The general public won't know, maybe an opponent won't know. But he won't use a certain move. He's got so much to draw on, he might not do this or do that. But knowing him as we do, Chip Schaeffer (the Bulls' trainer) and I are amazed at how he tolerates pain. It's a matter of pride with him. He's the most extraordinary of the extraordinary."

Jordan didn't feel so extraordinary Monday. He didn't practice for Game 2 last Tuesday night. He took treatment. That includes taking an anti-inflammatory, a muscle relaxant, ice and heat treatments, and being hooked up for hours at a time to a electronic muscle stimulator. But the muscles can still tighten on Tuesday night as they did Sunday. "I was afraid they'd spasm," Jordan said. "Tonight? Treatment, medicine, then see how I feel tomorrow."

Euro 96 should be home from home for Klinsmann

THE EUROPEAN championship finals in England will be something of a home from home occasion for German captain Jurgen Klinsmann.

Throughout this season he has been in the unusual position of being England's Footballer of the Year while playing for Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga.

The impression he made during his year in England with Tottenham has not been forgotten. Before Klinsmann joined Spurs after the 1994 World Cup finals, it is fair to say he was not the most popular player in the eyes of English soccer fans. He had the reputation of being a "diver" in the penalty box.

But he quickly won over not only Spurs fans but also those of other clubs throughout the country who openly applauded his outstanding skill and, more importantly, his sportsmanship. It is rare indeed for rival fans to have a good word to say about players not playing for their team, but Klinsmann managed to accomplish that.

He made fans laugh by celebrating his first goals for Spurs with exaggerated celebratory swallows. His team mates following suit.

There was a man with a sense of humor. He pulled off a publicity masterstroke.

Since leaving Tottenham to return to Germany at the end of last season he has played in Britain several times with Germany and Bayern and been given a rousing reception by supporters.

Klinsmann is now regarded with obvious affection by the English and hopes that both his links with England and Germany's links with the city of Manchester will help their cause.

"I hope we can look at Manchester as home matches, especially since England are playing in London," Klinsmann said.

"People in Manchester remember Bert Trautmann there and now Eike Immel, Uwe Rösler and Michael Frontczek play in England with Manchester City."

"I don't think I'm forgotten yet either. There should be enough support for us."

Klinsmann, who has taken over as captain of the team from the injured Lothar Matthaus,

was a vital part of Germany's qualifying campaign, scoring nine goals. His fortune at Euro 96 could contrast sharply with the 1992 competition—even though he will miss Germany's first Group C match against the Czech Republic because of suspension.

In 1992 the blond-haired striker struggled to get into the team after a loss of form following his brilliant 1990 World Cup. He came into the first-choice line-up only after veteran forward Rudi Voller broke his arm in the opening match.

"I was going through a difficult period during the 1992 championships," Klinsmann said. "Voller's bad luck turned out to be my good fortune. Also (coach) Bert Vogts stood by me... I am thankful for that."

One thing is certain. Klinsmann, who speaks fluent English, will be under considerable pressure on and off the pitch.

The German camp is notorious for controversy during big tournaments and Klinsmann will be much in demand from the media. ■



Jordan International Rally 1996: List of entrants

ENTRANT	DRIVER	NATI	CO-DRIVER	NATI	CAR	CPL
1. Marlboro Rally Team	Abdullah Bakhatib	SA	Bobby Willis	GB	Toyota Celica GT4	A
2. Mohammed Bin Sulayman	Mohammed Bin Sulayman	SA	Ronan Morgan	GB	Ford Escort Cosworth RS	A
3. Andrew Touloufas	Andrew Touloufas	CY	Chips	GB	Subaru Impreza	A
4. R.A.C. Jordan	Alfred Al Daoud	HQ	Mahmoud Mergawi	HQ	Ford Escort Cosworth RS	A
5. A. Hussein	A. Hussein	HQ	Abdullah Al Miri	T.B.A.	Ford Escort Cosworth RS	A
6. Nasser Khalifa Al Ayyash	Nasser Khalifa Al Ayyash	HQ	Glady Khayry	O	Subaru Impreza	A
7. SH Abdullah Al Moushri	Sh Abdullah Al Moushri	HQ	Mohamed Mergawi	HQ	Ford Escort Cosworth RS	A
8. Khalid	Khalid	HQ	Mohamed Mergawi	HQ	Ford Escort Cosworth RS	A
9. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
10. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
11. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
12. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
13. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
14. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
15. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
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17. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
18. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
19. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
20. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
21. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
22. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
23. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
24. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
25. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
26. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
27. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
28. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
29. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
30. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
31. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
32. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
33. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
34. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
35. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
36. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
37. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
38. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
39. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
40. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
41. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
42. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
43. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
44. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
45. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
46. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
47. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
48. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
49. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A
50. R.A.C. Jordan	R.A.C. Jordan	HQ	Alexandros Georgos	CY	Subaru Impreza	A